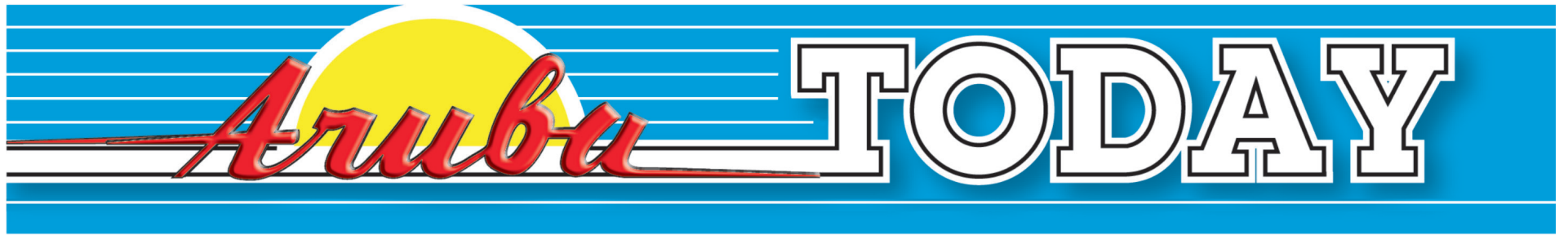


NYSE gets a facelift, its future unknown

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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com Website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: 582-7800 Saturday, April 9, 2011

INSIDE TODAY

SPORTS NEWS

SWAGGER'S BACK



Tiger Woods hits a drive ion the fourth hole during the second round of the Masters golf tournament Friday, April 8, 2011, in Augusta, Ga.

See More in Aruba Today Sports

WORLD NEWS



Gus Coletti, who called 911 for Shannan Gilbert the night she disappeared, speaks to reporters in Oak Beach, N.Y., on April 7, 2011. A total of eight bodies have been found in the area by police investigators since their initial search in December. (The New York Times)

Continued on next page



Deal to avoid government shutdown

By DAVID ESPO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON – Perilously close to a government shutdown, congressional leaders reached agreement with the White House late Friday night on a deal to cut tens of billions of dollars in federal spending and avert the closure. House Speaker John Boehner informed the GOP rank and file of the accord, reached in grueling negotiations over several weeks, an official said. “We have an agreement,” concurred a spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Jon Summers. Because drafting and then passing the broader legislation could take days, congressional leaders raced to approve a stopgap measure to prevent the onset of the first shutdown in 15 years, due to begin at midnight. Officials said it would keep the government in funds through the middle of next week. Boehner told reporters just



President Barack Obama speaks to the press after meeting with House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) for the second time. Obama warned to make a deal or government will be shutting down.

(Doug Mills/The New York Times)

before 11 p.m. EDT that the House would continue working. Republicans said the deal called for \$39 billion in spending cuts, a measure that one official said Boehner told his rank and file marked the “largest real-dollar spending cut in American history.” Over a decade, the agreement would cut more than \$500 billion from the federal budget,

Boehner added, according to a participant in the meeting. The agreement marked an extraordinary reach across party lines and the first test of a new era of divided government that includes Obama in the White House, control of the Senate by fellow Democrats and a tea party-flavored Republican majority in the House. □

IRS awards \$4.5M to whistleblower

By MARYCLAIRE DALE
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA – An accountant who tipped off the IRS that his employer was skimping on taxes has received \$4.5 million in the first IRS whistleblower award.

The accountant’s tip netted the IRS \$20 million in taxes and interest from the errant financial-services firm. The award represents a 22 percent cut of the taxes recovered. The program, designed to encourage tips in large-scale cases, mandates awards of 15 to 30 percent of the amount recouped.

“It ought to encourage a lot of other people to squeal,” Sen. Charles Grassley told The Associated Press. The Iowa Republican helped get the IRS Whistleblower Office authorized in 2006.

Continued on page A2

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Portugal receives

80-billion-euro bailout on the table

GODOLLO, Hungary – Europe offered Portugal Friday an 80-billion-euro (\$115 billion) bailout, but set tough conditions as it bid to draw a line under a destabilising debt crisis. The joint EU-IMF loans, following bailout rescues of Greece and Ireland last year, will be conditional on more public spending cuts, tax rises and far-reaching privatizations -- negotiated with Portuguese politicians facing an angry, fearful electorate around June 5 polls.

This third bailout of a euro zone nation within a year would likely amount to 80 billion Euros (\$115 billion), EU finance commissioner Olli Rehn said.

Portugal's finance minister, Fernando Teixeira dos Santos, stressed that what was now a caretaker government could not be expected to sell it to its electorate.

The decision to act was taken after the government collapsed last month when parliament rejected its attempts to impose stringent austerity measures to rein in its public deficit.

Then on Thursday outgoing Portuguese premier Jose Socrates, now running a caretaker administration, formally asked for financial aid on the eve of the scheduled talks here in Godollo. Like Dublin and Athens beforehand the bailout was brought on by skyrocketing borrowing costs.

The decision on Portugal also comes as the EU is locked in controversial talks over a permanent rescue mechanism for wayward euro zone states.

The aim is to set down binding rules once and for all to contain debt contagion that some believe now threatens Spain.

The International Monetary Fund confirmed Friday that Portugal had asked for finan-

cial help.

"We are prepared to move expeditiously on this request and hold swift discussions with the Portuguese government," IMF managing director Dominique Strauss-Kahn said in a statement. One-third funded by the International Monetary Fund, pending final confirmation from Washington, the deal with Lisbon should be conditional on "an ambitious privatization program."

It would also require labor market reform and "measures to maintain the liquidity and solvency of the financial sector," Rehn said.

It will require "strict conditionality negotiated with the Portuguese authorities, duly involving the main political parties," added Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the Eurogroup group of countries.

A "cross-party agreement" is



Portuguese Finance Minister Fernando Teixeira dos Santos waits for the start of an informal meeting of EU finance ministers in Godollo. Europe offered Portugal Friday an 80-billion-euro (\$115 billion) bailout, but set tough conditions as it bids to draw a line under a destabilizing debt crisis.

to be "adopted by mid-May and implemented swiftly after the formation of a new government" in June.

European Central Bank head Jean-Claude Trichet said it was "essential" that structural budgetary adjustment lay at the heart of the plan, and that

the "hard work" should "begin immediately."

Rehn later told Portugal's politicians to show "responsibility" and agree economic reforms, after Teixeira dos Santos said: "It's not for the government to negotiate with the opposition." □

Long Island killer using techniques

By WILLIAM K. RASH BAUM

© 2011 New York Times

NEW YORK – Whoever killed four prostitutes, and possibly four other people, and then dumped their bodies in heavy underbrush along a beachfront causeway on Long Island appears to have a sophisticated understanding of police investigative techniques, according to people briefed on the case.

A series of taunting phone calls made to the teenage sister of one of the victims – calls that the police suspect came from the killer – were made from in or around some of the most crowded locations in New York City, including Madison Square Garden and Times Square, according to the people briefed on the case and a lawyer representing the family of that victim, Melissa Barthelemy.

The locations, detectives say, were probably chosen because they allowed the caller to blend into crowds, so that if investigators pinpointed his



Richard Dormer, the Suffolk County Police commissioner, speaks to reporters in Oak Beach, N.Y., on April 7, 2011. A total of eight bodies have been found in the area by police investigators since their initial search in December. (The New York Times)

location from the cell phone's signal, they would be unable to pick him out of the crowd using any nearby surveillance cameras, one of the people said.

This fact, as well as the caller's use of disposable cell phones to contact the four victims who have been identified – women in their 20s who advertised their services on Craigslist – suggested to some investigators that the killer was well-versed in criminal investigative techniques,

gleaned either through personal experience or in some other way, and could even be in law enforcement himself.

"He is a guy who is aware of how we utilize technology," one investigator said. "Frankly, people are thinking maybe he could be a cop" – either one still in law enforcement or one who has moved on.

"Without question, this guy is smart, this guy is not a dope," the investigator continued. "It's a guy who thinks about things." □

IRS

Continued from front page

The IRS mailed the accountant's lawyer a \$3.24 million check that arrived in suburban Philadelphia by first-class mail Thursday. The sum represents the award minus a 28 percent tax hit. The lawyer, Eric L. Young of Blue Bell, won't release the name of his client or the firm because his client remains a small-town accountant, and hopes to continue to work in his field. "It's a win-win for both the government and taxpayers. These are dollars that are being returned to the Treasury that otherwise wouldn't be," Young said. "It's very difficult to be a whistleblower," said Young, who has represented more than a dozen such tipsters, including one in a \$2 billion Pfizer case involving off-label drug marketing. "Most people would be inclined to turn a blind eye

to it. The process can be time-consuming, arduous and stressful, from both a personal and professional standpoint," he said. The accountant filed a complaint with the IRS in 2007, just as the IRS Whistleblower Office opened, but heard nothing for two years. Frustrated, he hired Young to help push the issue. "We were able to help him get it back on track," Young said. In the accountant's case, the IRS did not deem the issues he raised complex. But the agency said the information he shared pointed out new questions for a routine IRS audit that was already under way. The Whistleblower Office received nearly 1,000 tips involving more than 3,000 taxpayers in fiscal years 2008 and 2009, according to its annual reports to Congress. Hundreds of them alleged tax underpayments of more than \$10 million, and dozens more underpayments of \$100 million or more. □

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If government shuts down

Taxes collected, coins produced



A U.S. 1040A Individual Income Tax form is seen at a U.S. Post office in New York is the deadline for filing taxes in the United States.

WASHINGTON – The Treasury Department will continue to collect taxes, freeze assets, print currency and produce coins if the government is forced to shut down at midnight on Friday. Democratic and Republican lawmakers are scrambling to broker a federal spending package that will keep the government running past tonight.

If they fail to reach an agreement, thousands of federal workers identified as nonessential workers will be furloughed, national parks will be closed and many official websites will darken.

But with the April 18 deadline looming to file taxes, a good chunk of the Treasury Department will stay open to collect the receipts, the agency said on its website on Friday. □

Abandoned in New Jersey

Pit bull gains worldwide following

By SAMANTHA HENRY
Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. – When an emaciated pit bull found at the bottom of a trash chute in New Jersey was rushed to a veterinary emergency room last month, doctors there thought he would be dead within the hour.

Instead, the scrappy pup, nicknamed Patrick, has defied the odds and is getting stronger by the day. “He is a tremendous fighter,” said Dr. Thomas Scavelli, the director and founder of the Garden State Veterinary Specialists, the pet hospital in Tinton Falls where Patrick is being treated. “There are very few animals, or any life form, that could have gone through and survived what he has, and really never looked back.” Hospital staffers, who named the dog for his reddish fur and because he was found the day before St. Patrick’s Day, have



A 1-year-old pit bull nicknamed Patrick sits near piles of gifts donated to him as he recovers at Garden State Veterinary Specialists in Tinton Falls, N.J., after being found starved and dumped in a trash chute.

been chronicling his progress on their website and a Facebook page that has garnered fans from around the world. □

Oregon bomb case prosecutors seek to block material release

PORTLAND, Oregon – Federal prosecutors, citing national security concerns, urged a judge on Thursday not to force them to turn over to the defense more materials in the case of a Somali man charged with trying to blow up an Oregon Christmas tree-lighting ceremony.

“There are important national security concerns that militate for limited discovery in certain areas and which should guard against an unwarranted fishing expedition,” court documents filed by government lawyers on Thursday said.

Mohamed Osman Mohamud was arrested on November 26 after he allegedly tried to detonate what he thought was a car bomb during a crowded tree-lighting ceremony in Portland on November 26.

The bomb was actually fake explosives provided by undercover agents.

Mohamud’s attorneys have asked for more materials from the government as they prepare their defense, including recording equipment that allegedly failed during a crucial meeting between undercover agents and the alleged jihadist.

The failure to record the meeting was human error and “giving the defense access to the device would serve no proper purpose,” prosecutors said in their court filing.

The government attorneys said they have already provided Mohamud’s attorneys with a voluminous amount of materials including e-mails,



Mohamed Osman Mohamud in an undated photo

audio recordings, video recordings, computer evidence, phone recordings, photographs and FBI reports. □

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In New York Cemetery

Deer stands guard over goose nest



A Canada goose nests in an urn as a deer keeps a watchful eye at Forest Lawn cemetery in Buffalo, New York.

By Neale Gulley
Associated Press

BUFFALO, New York — A deer has been standing watch for several days over a female goose nesting in a city cemetery, a scene normally reserved for a children's movie. "People always want to turn it into a Disney story and in this case it's not far off," said Gina Browning, director of the Erie County SPCA.

For at least four days, the buck stood guard near the nest of a Canada goose as she sits on her eggs inside a large urn at Forest Lawn cemetery, home to the remains of President Millard Fillmore and rock

icon Rick James.

"He does appear to be guarding the goose, as it were," Erie County SPCA Wildlife Administrator Joel Thomas said. "He's within touching distance of her there's no doubt what's going on."

The deer, which he said looks like a buck that has shed its antlers, has not strayed from his post. Employees at the cemetery were alerted to the situation after the animal positioned itself between the bird and an employee of a company that traps and relocates geese, which Thomas said have become a messy problem in large numbers. □

Age wars in the era of austerity

By Emily Kaiser
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rob Dugger sees the U.S. budget battle as a civil conflict as monumental as the Revolutionary and Civil wars. Instead of colonists against the British, or the North against the South, this fight will pit old versus young, rich versus poor.

"Budgets express commitments citizens have made to each other over many decades who gets what, and who pays for it, covering everything from safe milk to national defense," said Dugger, the founder of Hanover Investment Group.

"There's injustice in deficits, which enable some families to live well now, but which impose burdens on other families and on children and future Americans," said the former policy director for the American Bankers Association. This year's congressional tussle over how to trim the 2011 budget is just the opening act in what could be years of fiscal fighting as the United States struggles to stop spending beyond its means.

The numbers are well known. The 76 million baby boomers born after World War Two are hitting retirement age and claiming healthcare and pension entitlements that will swamp an already overburdened federal budget.

The latest recession pushed



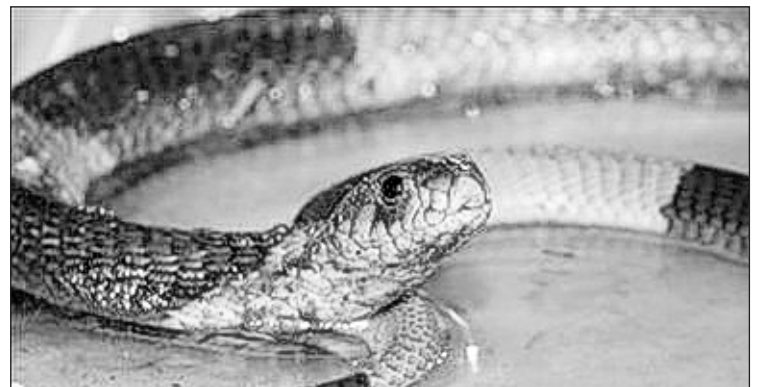
Youth Opportunity (YO!) Academy students (L-R) Samira Gardner, Ray Allan, Rashia Gerald and Khaalid Brooks sit in front of a wall at the Westside Youth Opportunity Center in Baltimore.

the government deeper into debt and provided a bitter taste of what is to come when

lawmakers must choose between keeping promises to the old or the young. □

Missing in action

Escaped Bronx Zoo cobra is named Mia



A recovered Egyptian cobra is displayed at the Bronx Zoo in this handout photograph taken and released.

NEW YORK — The venomous Egyptian cobra that slithered her way to worldwide fame by escaping her enclosure at

New York's Bronx Zoo for a week has been given a name Mia as in "missing in action." The winning name announced on Thursday by zoo officials was selected from 33,000 nominations in an online contest launched by the zoo and the New York Daily News.

There were five finalists Agnes, Amaunet, Cleopatra, Subira and Mia. Of 60,000 votes cast, Mia came out ahead with more than a quarter of the vote.

No matter what her given name, the adolescent female snake may always be known to many as Bronx Zoos Cobra, a fake Twitter account about the snake's imagined escapades which now has nearly 240,000 followers.

During her disappearance last month, the tweets focused on her alleged jaunts to New York's tourist attractions. □



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In New York

No decision on defense of hotel castration

By JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A lawyer for a Portuguese model charged with castrating and killing a TV journalist said Friday he hoped to decide within three weeks whether to pursue a psychiatric defense in the bloody attack in a Times Square hotel room.

A psychiatrist is due to evaluate Renato Seabra next week for his defense, attorney David Touger said after a brief court session. Seabra, wearing a gray suit his mother had brought to him in a psychiatric hospital jail ward, said nothing as an interpreter helped him follow the session in Manhattan state court.

“For a man charged with murder in the second degree, who’s never been in jail or in trouble in his life, I’d say he’s doing OK,” Touger said afterward. “But that’s under the circumstances.”

Seabra, a 21-year-old former contestant on a Portuguese talent-search show, has pleaded not guilty to murder in Carlos Castro’s Jan. 7 death. Castro, a 65-year-old Portuguese TV personality and writer, was found dead, naked and bloodied in a room they were sharing.

Seabra later told police he had choked Castro, stabbed him with a corkscrew in his face and groin, rammed a computer monitor into his head and stomped on his face after an argument, according to a court document.



Renato Seabra is led in handcuffs into the courtroom at State Supreme Court, in New York. The Portuguese model faces charges of castrating and murdering a Portuguese TV journalist Carlos Castro in a New York hotel room.

Friends said the two were a couple, but Seabra’s mother has said they weren’t.

While no decisions have been made about a psychiatric defense in Seabra’s case, there are two possibilities.

One is an insanity defense, in which a defendant can be acquitted and sent to a mental hospital if he can establish that he was so mentally ill when committing a crime that he didn’t know it was wrong. New York state law also allows some murder defendants to argue they were overcome by “extreme emotional disturbance”; if successful, that defense leads to a conviction on the lesser charge of manslaughter. □

Shutdown would close parks, crimp paychecks

By Alistair Bell
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Garbage will pile up in the streets of the capital, the Statue of Liberty will close and families of soldiers at war could struggle to pay the bills if Congress fails to reach a budget deal and the government shuts down this weekend.

Government services that are deemed as nonessential run out of funding at midnight on Friday without an agreement between Republicans and Democrats on spending for the rest of the fiscal year.

If they cannot break a logjam in Congress, some 800,000 employees will be sent home without pay when federal agencies close indefinitely.

National parks will shut their gates and turn back tourists in the middle of their vacations.



The Statue of Liberty is likely to turn away huddled masses yearning for access, suffering the same fate as the Grand Canyon and other US national parks if a US budget impasse is not resolved.

The famed Yosemite National Park in California tentatively plans to shut its gates at noon on Monday.

“There are thousands of people depending on this,” said Commerce Department

employee Trish Lister who did not know if she would be furloughed. “I’m not worried for myself but I am disgusted by the children in Congress, particularly the Tea Party,” she said. □

Since Civil War’s start

Solemn tribute to mark 150 years

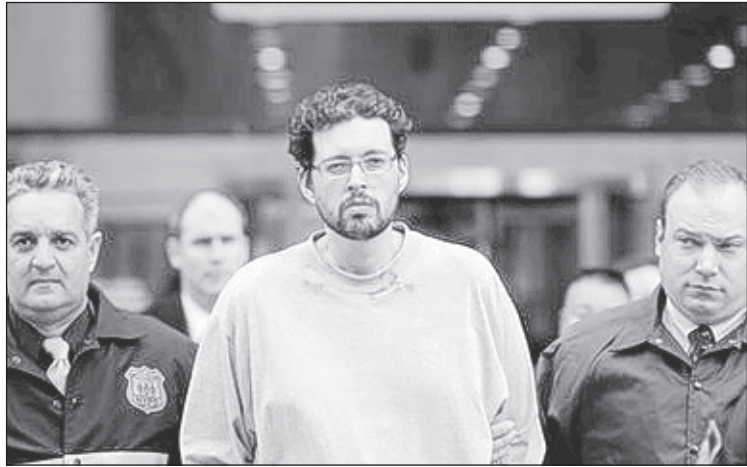
By Harriet McLeod
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, South Carolina — At dawn on Tuesday, re-enactors dressed and armed as Confederate soldiers will fire cannons toward Fort Sumter, commemorating the first shots of the Civil War 150 years ago. Fired on April 12, 1861, the original shots launched the four-year conflict that divided the country, claimed 620,000 American lives and freed the slaves. Visitors are expected to arrive in the historic port city of Charleston, South Carolina, for the commemorative and education sesquicentennial events starting this weekend. Organizers have spent two years crafting the occasion as a solemn nod to the past, inclusive of all those whose lives were affected by the war.

“Whatever we do, it can’t look like 1961,” said Michael Allen, education specialist with the National Parks Service.

In 1961 in the deeply segregated South, the city’s 100th anniversary of the start of the Civil War looked like a party. It included a fireworks show, a parade of marching bands, costumed Southern belles and rebel soldiers, and waving of Confederate flags. “No visitor in town could have doubted he was in Dixie,” the (Charleston) News and Courier reported at the time. The next year, the Confederate battle flag was raised over the statehouse dome in the capital city of Columbia, where it remained until protests brought it down just a decade ago. □

“Barefoot Bandit” suspect in plea negotiations



Marat Mikhaylich, known also as the Holiday Bandit, is walked out of the Federal Building in New York. Mikhaylich is alleged to have robbed nine banks in New York and New Jersey during the 2010 holiday season.

By Laura L. Myers
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Prosecutors and attorneys for the 20-year-old man accused in a series of crimes attributed to the “Barefoot Bandit” are negotiating a plea deal, a defense lawyer told AP on Friday.

The plea agreement, is being hammered out among 20 state and federal jurisdictions to consolidate and settle all of the charges against Colton Harris-Moore, attorney John Henry Browne said.

“We’re aiming for a global resolution,” Browne said. “All signs seem good. It would involve ending all prosecutions against Colton everywhere. There won’t be a trial if this goes through,” he added.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Seattle declined to comment, but a

motion filed jointly by prosecutors and defense lawyers asking for additional time to prepare discovery materials referred to the potential of a plea deal. “The parties are currently involved in settlement negotiations that may potentially resolve this case,” the two sides said in the court documents. “The negotiations have been meaningful and productive.” Harris-Moore, a 6-foot-five-inch tall high school dropout and self-taught pilot, is accused of a two-year spree of sometimes-shoeless burglaries and thefts.

He was indicted in November on five counts of interstate transportation of a stolen plane, a stolen boat and a gun, along with being a fugitive in possession of a firearm and flying a plane without a license. □

North Dakota, Minnesota bracing for Red River crest

FARGO, North Dakota— North Dakota and Minnesota residents braced on Friday as the Red River edged toward a near-record crest in the Fargo-Moorhead area, with rain showers expected as the river peaks over the weekend.

Fargo completed sandbagging operations and finalized work on dikes and other flood controls and planned to distribute 235,000 more sandbags to various neighborhoods as insurance if the Red River rises higher than expected.

“Everybody needs to be vigilant because this is not a walk in the park. It’s the third-highest crest in history,” Fargo-Mayor Dennis Walaker told reporters.

The Red River reached 38 feet



“Red River” Floods in N. Dakota

on Friday morning at Fargo. The National Weather Service projected a crest at about 39.5 feet Sunday afternoon which would be the third highest ever. Fargo has about 52 miles of protection in place along the river, city officials said. The

city planned to add enough sandbags and other defenses to withstand a 42-foot crest. The projected 39.5-foot crest at Fargo would rank third behind the record 40.84-foot crest in 2009 and the 39.72-foot crest in 1997. □

Southwest Airlines sees narrow concern

By Chris Baltimore
Associated Press

DALLAS — Southwest Airlines is willing to expand inspections for its older Boeing 737 aircraft but sees no reason for concern a week after one of its jets made an emergency landing with a hole in its fuselage, the discount carrier’s chief executive officer said on Friday. An older-model Southwest Airlines 737-300 was forced to make an emergency landing in Arizona on April 1 when a 5-foot tear opened up in its fuselage 20



A Southwest Airlines 737-700 takes off from Bob Hope Airport in Burbank, California.

minutes after takeoff.

The incident prompted Southwest, the largest domestic airline by passengers flown, to ground planes and cancel hundreds of flights over the weekend so it could inspect more than 70 of its older model 737-300s. “If there is

some finding that suggests that there is merit to expanding inspections beyond what we’ve done, well of course we’re going to do that,” said Gary Kelly, chief executive officer of the discount carrier, speaking to a conference of business journalists. □

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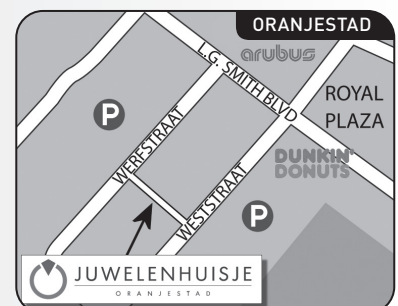
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LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Those were the days



By: Roland W. Peterson

It was just before sun rise
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father in the cabin of the old
pick-up -truck
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ping at
the cliff formation along the
coast
The wind was howling like
little wolves trying
to enter through the cracks in
the cabin
From a distance, driven by
the mighty trade wind,
the smell of fresh brewed cof-
fee made me sit
up straight
In the distance I saw the sil-
houette of the
elderly lady with the big fa-
miliar metal coffee pot
in one hand
In the other hand she was
holding the bread basket
As she got closer the aroma
of coffee and the smell
of fresh baked bread tickled
my empty stomach
A gentle tap on the door
Thick slices of cheese melt-
ing in the "Pan Francis"
The sun rays light up the
morning
The sign is given
The dormant figures on the
beach
spring to life.
The net is loaded in the boat
The net is set
Now they await the famous
shout:
Haul, haul, haul. □

Top beaches chosen by millions of travelers

Aruba's beaches No. 3 in the world



Aruba's beaches were chosen by millions of travelers as the top 3 beaches in the world.

NEWTON, Mass -- TripAdvisor®, the world's largest travel site, announced this week the winners of its inaugural 2011 Travelers' Choice® Beaches awards. Top beach spots were named in the U.S., Europe, Asia, Canada, the South Pacific, the Caribbean and Mexico, and Central and South America. Award winners were determined based on the most highly rated beach destinations by travelers in TripAdvisor reviews. Unlike any other honors, TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice winners are based on millions of real and

unbiased reviews and opinions from travelers around the world. According to a recent TripAdvisor survey of more than 2,100 U.S. respondents, 68 percent are planning a beach vacation in 2011. Fifty-four percent are planning a trip to a U.S. beach destination. Seventeen percent intend to visit the U.S. southeast coast, 13 percent expect to explore the northeast coast, 12 percent plan to go to the gulf coast and 10 percent plan to visit the west coast. Twenty-six percent are planning a beach trip to the Caribbean

or Mexico in 2011. "It's that time of year when travelers are dreaming of getaways to warm beach destinations. To provide inspiration on where to go, we've named some amazing hot spots around the world, based on millions of real and unbiased reviews and opinions from TripAdvisor travelers," said Barbara Messing, chief marketing officer for TripAdvisor. "In addition to the outstanding beaches, these destinations also feature top-rated options for hotels, vacation rentals, attractions, and restaurants."

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~
Travelers' Choice Beaches Award-winning World Beach Destinations:
1. Providenciales, Turks and Caicos
2. Boracay, Philippines
3. Palm/Eagle Beach, Aruba
4. Negril, Jamaica
5. Tulum, Mexico
6. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
7. Seven Mile Beach, Grand Cayman
8. Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
9. Cape May, New Jersey
10. Santa Teresa, Costa Rica. □

At Amazonia Churrascaria

Mario Tromp enjoys a festive retirement party



PALM BEACH—After working for Caribbean Mercantile Bank for over four decades in the accounting department Mario Tromp was given a retirement party at Amazonia

Churrascaria in the presence of all his bank friends and colleagues.

Mario reports he is planning to enjoy a second career as a decorator, besides taking



good care of family members especially his aging mom. Amazonia Churrascaria created an unforgettable evening for Mario filled with delicious food and much-enjoyed camaraderie. □



A dinner under the Caribbean sky!

Las Ramblas
Tapas & Charcoal Grill



The menu features authentic spanish tapas and entrees such as delicious Seafood Paella, USDA Beef Tenderloin & New Zealand Lamb Chops from the charcoal grill.

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Reservation recommended
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La Cabana's Boardwalk

Cool Casino Offers Fun Activities all Easter Week Visitor wins Straight Flush on Let It Ride



Pictured here Jeffrey Provencal, the happy winner of a Straight Flush on Let It Ride, pocketing \$5,000 for his \$5 dollar bet, at Cool Casino, Riu Palace.

PALM BEACH – Cool Casino at Riu Palace is organizing a slew of fun activities to celebrate the upcoming Easter Holidays, beginning with Holy Thursday, granting 3X point on slots April 21st till April 30th. Good Friday's Blackjack Tournament will feature a cool prize of \$1,000. Starting at 7:30pm, the tournament inscription is just \$15, and the

re-buy just \$10. On Saturday night Casin Giel's popular band will provide the musical entertainment in the casino and the first 100 guests will receive \$10 in slot credit. Cool Casino's Easter Slot Tournament, starting at 6:30pm will feature a fun Egg Hunt on slots for \$1,000 in prizes, inscription \$10. While the entertaining Easter Slot Tournament will repeat

on Monday at 6:30pm, the much-anticipated Blackjack Tournament will be played on Tuesday, also featuring \$1,000 in prizes, inscription \$15, and the re-buy just \$10. Wednesday's much-liked Ladies Night at the casino will introduce the music of Francis Jacobs and free \$10 slot credit for ladies, after 9 pm. Friday will feature a Black Jack Tournament, at 7:30pm, for \$1,000 in cool prizes, inscription just \$15 and the re-buy just \$10. The first 100 casino visitors will again receive a \$10 slot credit, on Saturday, enjoying live music and the casino's friendly ambiance, Sunday, will deliver the Big Blackjack Tournament, with \$2,500 in cool prizes beginning at 7 pm, says Deyanira Zuniga, Marketing Supervisor, the Big Blackjack Tournament will conclude the Easter week program at the casino. □

Tango Restaurant introduces new menus for Semana Santa and Mother's Day



ARAWAK - Tango Restaurant in the Arawak Gardens across from the Occidental Resort is in a generous mood this month. The cozy Argentine restaurant is celebrating Semana Santa, the week preceding Easter as well as Mother's Day with great menu deals for its guests. During Semana

Santa the special includes Calamari as appetizer, followed by a House Salad and a choice between Mix Seafood Pincho grilled or Grilled Chicken. A Caramel Flan or Ice Cream are the dessert choices. Tango's Semana Santa dinner special includes a glass of its famous Sangria.

After Easter it's time to start thinking about Mother's Day. As all the restaurants are always filled to capacity, it would be a good idea to make your reservations early. For Sunday, May 8, Tango has come up with a most attractive special; one which will surely delight your mother!



Dinner starts off with a choice between a Caesar Salad or an Onion Soup.

The Entrée options are Surf & Turf, Grouper Filet or Filet Mignon, while dessert is either a Caramel Flan or Chocolate Cake. Everyone is treated

to an elegant glass of Mimosa courtesy of Tango Restaurant in celebration of the festive day.

Reservations for both the Semana Santa Special or the Mother's Day Special are already possible. □

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"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

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Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

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Driftwood Restaurant

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Driftwood Restaurant

Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant

Klipstraat 12, Downtown Oranjestad

Tel: (297) 583 2515

www.driftwoodaruba.com

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



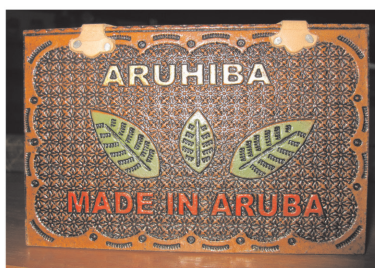
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ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced

cigars called "Aruhiba". These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba



he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The process took ten years. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar box is specially designed for the cigars with the logo "Aruhiba". Petrocchi considers Aruhiba a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars. The company sells International cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five

cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till 8:30pm. And open on Sunday



from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco

farm where cigars are handmade. For tour to the tabaco factory call: 586-0347

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In Syria

20 protesters killed



Syrian intelligence security forces patrol in the southern city of Daraa, Syria. Unlike the armies of Tunisia and Egypt, Syria's military will almost certainly stand by the country's leader as President Bashar Assad faces down an extraordinary protest movement.

By BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian security forces opened fire on tens of thousands of protesters across several cities Friday, killing at least 20 people, wounding hundreds and forcing residents to turn mosques into makeshift hospitals, witnesses and a human rights group said.

Ammar Qurabi, who heads Syria's National Organization for Human Rights, said most of the deaths happened in Daraa, a restive southern city that has become a flashpoint for anti-government protests. Sixteen people were killed in Daraa, three in the Damascus suburb of Harasta, and one in the central city of Homs, he said. The government acknowledged violence in Daraa on Friday, but said only two people died and blamed armed thugs. One witness who helped ferry the dead and wounded to the city's hospital said he was among thousands of people at the protest and he witnessed security forces shooting live ammunition.

"My clothes are soaked with blood," he said by telephone from Daraa. Like most activists and witnesses who spoke to The Associated Press, he requested anonymity for fear of reprisals.

A nurse at the hospital said they had run out of beds; many people were being treated on the floor or in nearby mosques.

Protest organizers have called on Syrians to take to the streets every Friday for the past three weeks, demanding change in one of the most authoritarian nations in the Middle East. The protests have rattled the regime of President Bashar Assad, whose family has ruled Syria for nearly 40 years.

Ivory Coast

Ouattara overshadowed by killings

By Tim Cocks
Associated Press

ABIDJAN — U.N. workers in Ivory Coast have found the bodies of more than 100 victims of brutal killings, a discovery that threatened to undermine presidential claimant Alassane Ouattara as he seeks to take control of the country. Ouattara's rival, Laurent Gbagbo, meanwhile was left isolated behind a military cordon in the bunker where he has sought refuge after a concerted assault by Ouattara's troops earlier this week.

Ouattara appears for now to have decided to isolate Gbagbo in his Abidjan residence, rather than press ahead with attempts to drive him out by military force, and concentrate instead on efforts to restore normal life after weeks of fighting.

But Ouattara's ability to unify the West African state may be undermined by reports of atrocities since his forces -- a collection of former rebels from the north -- swept south



French soldiers prepare for a patrol in Abidjan. Days of clashes between forces loyal to Ivory Coast presidential claimant Alassane Ouattara and incumbent Laurent Gbagbo, who refuses to cede power, have turned what was once known as the "Paris of Africa" into a ghost city.

into Abidjan, the commercial capital, more than a week ago. The United Nations human rights office said on Friday it found 115 corpses in the west in the past 24 hours, adding to the 800 dead reported by aid groups last week.

Ouattara said his soldiers had blockaded Gbagbo in the presidential residence -- an

ironic twist after Ouattara suffered months in a hotel under siege by Gbagbo's troops following last November's disputed election.

In a speech late on Thursday, Ouattara said he would seek to restore security and basic services and would also pursue investigations into reported serious abuses by both his and Gbagbo's troops since fighting began.

Ouattara won the November presidential poll by eight percentage points, according to U.N. certified results, but Gbagbo rejected the outcome citing fraud and accused the United Nations of meddling in Ivorian affairs.

The poll was meant to draw a line under Ivory Coast's 2002-3 civil war, but the dispute over results rekindled it, turning Abidjan -- once known as the 'Paris of West Africa' -- once again into a war zone. "I was born here, but I am leaving and I am never coming back," said Imad Zarour, 40, who was waiting to be evacuated at a French military base on Friday. "Even if there's peace, even if they give me a billion dollars, I will never come back to this country. I hate it."

A commander for the French military force in Ivory Coast, Licorne (Unicorn), said on Friday its troops would carry out mixed patrols with police and gendarmes now loyal to Ouattara to restore security and rebuild infrastructure. □

In Mexico

Mass grave found in front of morgue



People wait to know if missing relatives since Nov. 2010, are among the 59 bodies found in a mass grave in front of the local morgue in Matamoros, northern Mexico. Security forces following reports of abducted passengers in violent Tamaulipas state bordering Texas stumbled on a collection of pits holding a total of 59 bodies.

By OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ
Associated Press

MATAMOROS, Mexico — Investigators have uncovered 13 more bodies in mass graves in the violent northern state of Tamaulipas, where 59 dead were exhumed earlier this week, officials said Friday. Families and authorities from across Mexico contacted

the morgue in search of those who have vanished in the country's drug-war.

Seventy-two bodies have now been discovered since authorities began chasing reports in late March that gunmen had kidnapped people off of passenger buses headed toward the U.S. border.

Nine of the bodies were dis-

covered in one newly found grave and four in another on Thursday near the city of San Fernando, state Interior Secretary Morelos Canseco said Friday. The total now matches the number of migrants who died in a massacre near that town last August. Canseco said investigators are searching for yet more graves in the area. Families came to the morgue in the border city of Matamoros across from Brownsville, Texas, looking for loved ones not seen for a couple of weeks, others a few months some as long as three years. Canseco said he has heard from officials in the central states of Guanajuato and Queretaro searching for residents who disappeared on buses traveling through Tamaulipas or to U.S. border.

Guanajuato attorney general spokeswoman Susana Montero said 17 missing people rode an Omnibus de Mexico company bus to northern Mexico in March. □

Trump more qualified for celebrity than presidency



Tycoon Donald Trump

Monica Lehua
Associated Press

Billionaire businessman Donald J. Trump Sr. has been in the public eye for many years for both his personal life as well as his business dealings. There has been talk in the past that he would make an interesting candidate for the presidency based on his shrewd ability to take risks, create wealth and get out of debt. There are several reasons that, although some may think Trump may make a good president, there are just as many, if not more, disadvantages to having him living in the White House. Donald Trump: Too Out-spoken Recently, Trump spoke at the annual CPAC conference, saying, "I have a reputation for telling it like it is, I'm known for my candor; I've had a lot of great victories and I may be willing to put that to work." In that same speech, Trump also said twice that Ron Paul could never get elected and went on to sarcastically say he was sorry about that. Congressman Ron Paul of Texas won the Presidential Straw Poll at CPAC for the second year in a row. Donald Trump: Good at Business, Really? Trump has a long history with real estate and business investment successes and failures. Corporations that were run by Trump have filed for bankruptcy numerous times. There's no doubt that he will be good for the economy by knowing how to protect his own assets;

but will he be able to save America? Trump claims that if he were president he would make foreign countries pay us what they owe and create jobs. The question isn't so much on his ability to work on balancing the budget but whether or not he can deal with other world powers.

Donald Trump: No real political experience

On a small scale, America has watched Trump the real estate and business mogul and Trump the celebrity. Trump has no government political experience. He has never run for office, nor held any government office which oversees what is in the interest of the people vs. what is in his best interest. Trump could pay for his election and to assess whether or not he could win.

He would most likely get enough support to get onto the ticket but it is highly unlikely that he would receive the support from the Republican Party. Although, according to the Wall Street Journal/NBC poll, Trump did tie for second with former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. Mitt Romney, former Massachusetts governor, presently is the front-runner. But Can He Play Politics?

Trump knows how to play politics, manipulate the media and create attention. This is how he has been able to run his businesses.

However, if he doesn't get his way, he has exhibited less than favored political politeness.

He has had long, drawn out media fights with celebrities including Martha Stewart and Rosie O'Donnell.

Trump tends to run his professional and personal life together - his business dealings, his marriages, and his reality television shows; all contribute to his experience as a political powerhouse in the business world.

What does that tell America about his behavior? Will he try to settle disagreements with other countries by calling them names at a press conference? □

Bath salts and fake pot:

America's new drug war

NEW YORK — Synthetic, over-the-counter drugs that mimic the effects of cocaine and marijuana are gaining popularity. But are they more dangerous than the real thing? The latest drug craze sounds innocent enough: Incense and "bath salts" sold under names like "K2," "Spice," "Purple Wave," and "Bliss." But these products, when smoked, snorted, and eaten, are serious synthetic narcotics and hallucinogens that mimic marijuana and cocaine, but with an often unpleasant and sometimes deadly high. What's more: They are legal in most states. Here, a guide to America's bath-salts epidemic:

What are these synthetic drugs?

They fall into two categories: Fake marijuana and "bath salts." The synthetic pot, like the product known as K2, is made from dried plant material sprayed with chemical compounds. Most of the chemicals were developed at Clemson University in the 1990s for research, but never tested on people. The bath



People pass a marijuana cigarette during a rally for the legalization of marijuana.

salts, sold under names like "Bliss," are crystallized chemicals featuring two strong stimulants that mimic cocaine, meth, and LSD. Both are sold in head shops for as little as \$10 a pop, and neither shows up in common drug tests. What do the drugs do, exactly?

"Many of the users describe extreme paranoia," says Dr. Mark Ryan at the Louisiana Poison Center. "The recurring theme is monsters, demons, and aliens. A lot of them had suicidal thoughts." The most infamous K2 in-

cident involves 18-year-old David Rozga of Iowa, who smoked the drug, then went home and committed suicide with a shotgun. In Kentucky, a young mother on bath salts reportedly pulled her car over on the highway and dropped her 2-year-old son on his head because she was convinced he was a demon.

And they're legal?

Sort of... but maybe not for long. The Drug Enforcement Administration has banned five of the chemicals used in making the fake pot, as have at least 20 states. □

GE's solar-power gambit



Solar panels are seen on the rooftop of houses.

NEW YORK — America's biggest corporation is building the nation's largest solar panel factory. Has the green industry's big moment finally arrived? In a coup for the renewable energy industry, GE announced Thursday that it plans to spend \$600 million on a plant to build solar panels. The factory will be the largest of its kind in the U.S., and when it opens in 2013 it will be able to annually crank out enough thin-film solar panels to power 80,000 homes. The

high cost of solar panels has kept many people from installing them, but competition from America's largest company could make them more affordable. Is this a sign that solar energy's day has finally arrived?

Solar is going mainstream: This is "a smart move" for GE, says Ariel Schwartz at Fast Company. Worldwide demand for photovoltaics will soar in the next five years, "as businesses and consumers quickly realize that banking

on renewables may be a better idea than relying on rapidly-depleting non-renewable resources." And the thin-film cells that GE will make are much more flexible than the clunkier (though more efficient) old technology, so they're more likely to catch on with consumers.

"GE building astoundingly thin solar panels (and the biggest solar factory in the U.S.)" And the competition will lower prices: Before GE's announcement, a company called First Solar has wielded "a virtual monopoly" on the thin solar panel market, says Eric Rosenbaum at The Street. GE's new factory, along with its acquisition of PrimeStar Solar, mean the industry is about to run into some serious competition for the first time. And GE claims it can produce the panels more efficiently than First Solar. □



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In Japan

New tremor kills 2 in disaster region



A house is pictured amid a field of debris from the March 11 quake and tsunami in Shichigahama town, Miyagi Prefecture.

By Yasuyoshi Chiba
Associated Press

SENDAI, Japan — A powerful aftershock rocked Japan's tsunami zone, killing at least two and triggering new concerns over nuclear power plants in a region still grappling with an atomic emergency. Electricity was cut across a huge area of northern Japan, forcing cooling systems at three nuclear plants to switch to emergency power, and as of Friday night, nearly 24 hours later, more than 600,000 households remained without power. At least one backup supply remained online at all three plants, but the 7.1-magnitude aftershock highlighted the potential risks of nuclear generation in an earthquake zone amid a battle to stabilise reactors at the tsunami-hit Fukushima plant.

Officials at the Fire and Disaster Management Agency said two people had been killed, and reports suggested another two might have died in the tremor.

The quake struck off the coast near Sendai -- one of the most powerful to hit Japan since the country's worst post-war disaster four weeks ago.

Thursday's quake swayed buildings in the capital Tokyo, more than 300 kilometres away from the epicentre, and generated unease even well away from the coast, where a tsunami warning was briefly issued.

In the town of Kitakami, northwest of the epicentre, an AP reporter witnessed queues forming at convenience stores as people tried to stock up anew on food, water and batteries.

"It was so scary," said Kazuyuki Shirowa, who had been to four shops in central Kitakami in a vain effort to find batteries. "The midnight quake reminded me of the fear I felt a month ago," he said. □

In Nigeria

Stolen ballots, fighting precede election

By JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

IBADAN, Nigeria — Gang members hired by politicians beat an election official and steal ballot papers. Bus loads of thugs harass opposition parties. A bomb detonates without an apparent target. Nigeria's delayed first national election but already troubles reminiscent of a fatally flawed 2007 vote can be seen across Africa's most populous nation. Coupled with a failed bombing in the north and an attack by a radical Islamic sect Friday, these signs undoubtedly prove worrying for international observers concerned about one of the top crude oil suppliers to the U.S., as well as those who will place their inked fingers to the ballots.

"Millions of voters may be



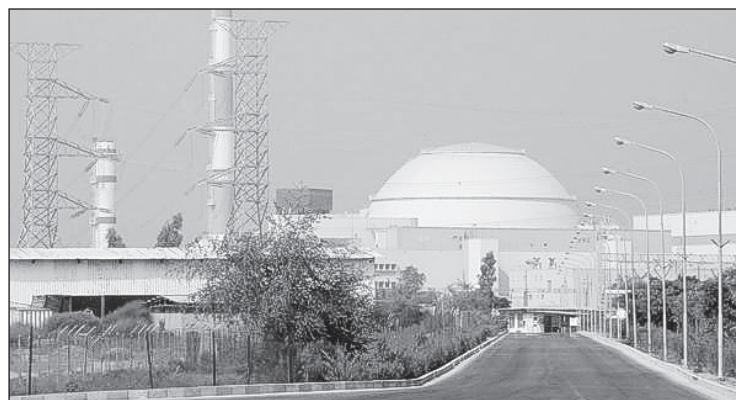
Supporters of presidential aspirant, Gen. Muhammadu Buhari, attend a campaign rally in Lagos, Nigeria. A former military ruler of Nigeria has gained support in his third bid to become president of the oil-rich nation.

disenfranchised by being too scared to go out to cast their votes," recently wrote Kunle Amuwo, an analyst with the International Crisis Group. "Politicians who orchestrate violence must be held accountable and prosecuted.

Unless violence is swiftly curtailed and contained, there will be no basis for credible elections."

Nigeria, home to 150 million people, will vote on who should represent its citizens in its National Assembly. □

Fuel loading resumes at Bushehr



Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant.

By JIM HEINTZ
Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Russian company that built Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant said Friday it has started re-

loading fuel into the reactor, more than a month after the fuel was ordered removed because of contamination concerns. The Atomstroyexport company said in a statement

that the reactor will be reassembled "shortly," but did not give further details of when it might be put into service. Fuel rod insertion began in October, at which time Iran said that the 1,000-megawatt light-water reactor would begin transmitting electricity to Iranian cities by December.

But in late February, Russia ordered that fuel be removed because of concerns that metal particles might be contaminating fuel assemblies. It said damaged elements were found in a cooling pump at the plant, raising the possibility that metal particles could get on the fuel assemblies. □

War against migrants

Italy, France to patrol Tunisian coast

Italian Interior Minister Roberto Maroni (L) and his French counterpart Claude Gueant hold a joint press conference in Milan. The ministers held talks amid an escalating row, after Italy granted temporary permits to some 20,000 Tunisian migrants and said this would allow them to travel to France.

By Mathieu Gorse
Associated Press

MILAN – Italy and France agreed Friday to carry out joint patrols off Tunisia's coast to block migrants headed for Europe, with the French interior minister saying there was no duty to take in boat people. Following the arrival of thousands of migrants from the ex-French colony, Italian Interior Minister Roberto Maroni said at the meeting with his French counterpart Claude Gueant that there would now be "joint air and sea patrols". "Neither Italy nor France has a duty to host the migrants," the French minister said, while Maroni called for "joint action" by Europe on immigration. The EU's border control agency Frontex in Warsaw told AP it

had not received any formal request but said the Italy-led mission was already patrolling that part of the Mediterranean until August.

A diplomatic row erupted between Rome and Paris after Italy on Thursday agreed to grant six-month residence permits to more than 20,000 mostly Tunisian migrants and said this would allow them to travel to France.

Many of the French-speaking migrants landing on the Italian island of Lampedusa in recent weeks say they want to go to France, which is turning back hundreds trying to cross from the Italian border town of Ventimiglia. □

*In Libya***Clashes in rebel-held Misrata**

By SEBASTIAN ABBOT
Associated Press

BENGHAZI, Libya – Anti-government fighters battled forces loyal to Moammar Gadhafi for control of a key roadway Friday in the only major rebel-held city in western Libya, a witness said as international relief efforts were stepped up for civilians caught in the crossfire.

The witness said rebel forces were trying to keep Gadhafi's troops from taking full control of a route linking central Misrata to its port, a critical lifeline for ships carrying humanitarian supplies into the battle zone just 100 miles southeast of the capital Tripoli.

In the rebel stronghold of Benghazi in eastern Libya, meanwhile, angry crowds fired into the air and chanted against Gadhafi's regime as militiamen killed in an accidental NATO airstrike were carried for burial.

"The martyrs' blood is not shed in vain!" cried some of the thousands of people gathered in central Benghazi to pray and mourn some of the dead from the attack on rebel tanks and vehicles.

The main clashes appeared in Misrata, where the outcome is symbolically significant for both sides. Rebels want to



A Libyan rebel fighter, holding a rocket launcher, shouts religious slogans after gun shots were heard as fellow comrades offer prayers in the background in Ajdabia, Libya.

retain an important foothold in Gadhafi's territory and his government seeks to consolidate its control over the west with NATO airstrikes bearing down. But NATO has been cautious about waging bombing runs in Misrata because the fighting in mostly within civilian areas. Growing indications of a drawn-out conflict in an OPEC nation pushed oil prices to levels not seen in more than two years ago.

The witness' account could not be independently verified. There also were no credible reports on casualties. Government forces have blocked journalists from doing independent reporting in Misrata, but some reporters have managed to enter by sea in past weeks.

In Geneva, the U.N. children's agency said snipers have targeted children in Misrata. UNICEF spokeswoman Marixie Mercado told reporters that the agency has received "reliable and consistent reports of children being among the people targeted by snipers in Misrata." She was unable to say how many children have been wounded or killed by snipers in Libya's third-largest city. A ship from the U.N.'s World Food Program reached Misrata on Thursday, delivering 600 tons of food as well as medical supplies. The food, including flour, vegetable oil and high energy biscuits, are enough to feed 40,000 people for a month, the Rome-based WFP said in a statement. □

*In Hungarian Roma***Far-right vigilantes spark fear**

By Eszter Balazs
Associated Press

HAJDUHADHAZ, Hungary – Fear grows among the Roma community in Hajduhadhaz as news spreads that far-right vigilantes are on their way to patrol the crime-stricken streets of the poor town.

"They are already here, in Radnoti Street, 700 of them... They will come here to get us," a man in his fifties clad in dirty rags shouts to a group mingling about.

The edges of Hajduhadhaz, with their typical "gypsy rows" of doorless brick and adobe shacks, are indeed

next on the visiting list of the Brighter Future militia, a sister group of the far-right Jobbik party, which made its way into parliament last year on a wave of anti-Roma animosity. Home to about 12,000 people a quarter of whom are Roma this town in eastern Hungary has a less than illustrious history: hit by over 15-percent unemployment, it also headed the list of most crime-infected Hungarian towns in 2007.

From petty theft to robbery and murder, it has had it all. And Romas are to blame for most of it, according to Jobbik. But the Brighter Future vigilantes 200 of whom are expected in Hajduhadhaz shortly have

only peaceful intentions, local Jobbik deputy Gergely Rubi, 31, insists.

"There will be no marches, no actions... we'll just quietly stand at crossroads in pairs for two weeks," he tells AP, refusing to reveal the start date of the action "for bigger effect".

"We are against criminals, not gypsies. If the Roma understand it differently, it is their problem," he shrugs off concerns about spreading fear.

Sporting dark military uniforms, about 2,000 vigilantes already spent several weeks last month patrolling Gyongyospata, a small village in northeastern Hungary, in order to "restore order," which



Youths of the Hungarian Roma community from Jaszladany village hold banners demanding education and employment opportunities during their demonstration in Budapest.

they said had been disrupted by "gypsy crime".

"Gypsy crime" is a common term in far-right lingo, referring to offences considered typically Roma, like stealing hens.

"The government is unable

to impose order and we cannot expect wonders from the underpaid, understaffed and overworked police," Rubi says as he drives along streets being swept by Roma women wearing the uniform neon vests of public workers. □

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NATO says "We did not know"

Libya rebels used tanks



An apparent NATO airstrike slammed into a rebel combat convoy Thursday, killing at least five fighters and sharply boosting anger among anti-government forces after the second bungled mission in a week blamed on the military alliance.

By SLOBODAN LEKIC
Associated Press

BRUSSELS – NATO acknowledged Friday that its airstrikes had hit rebels using tanks to fight government forces in eastern Libya, saying no one told them the rebels used tanks. British Rear Adm. Russell Harding, the deputy commander of the NATO operation, said in the past, only forces loyal to Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi had used heavy armored vehicles. Harding says the rebels and government troops are engaged in a series of advances and retreats between the eastern coastal towns of Brega and Ajdabiya, making it difficult for pilots to distinguish between them. NATO jets attacked a rebel convoy between these two towns Thursday, killing at least five fighters

and destroying or damaging a number of armored vehicles. "It would appear that two of our strikes yesterday may have resulted in rebel deaths," Harding told reporters in Naples, where the alliance's operational center is located.

"I am not apologizing," he said. "The situation on the ground was and remains extremely fluid, and until yesterday we did not have information that rebel forces are using tanks," he strikes, including an attack earlier this week, provoked angry denunciations of NATO by the rebels. At the same time, NATO officials have expressed frustration with the Libyan insurgents, who now view the alliance, whose mandate is limited to protecting civilians in Libya, as their proxy air force. □

In the Netherlands

Three leading Kenyans appear at world court

By MIKE CORDER, Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands – The son of Kenya's founding father declared Friday he was innocent of all charges after he appeared with two other suspects before judges at the International Criminal Court for allegedly orchestrating postelection violence that killed 1,000 people. Uhuru Kenyatta, Kenya's deputy prime minister and finance minister, appeared at the preliminary hearing along with Cabinet secretary Francis Muthaura and the country's former police chief Mohammed Hussein Ali.

The suspects were not required to enter pleas at the 55-minute hearing, which was held to establish that the men understood the charges against them, read them their rights and to set a timetable for future pretrial hearings. "The process now has started and we expect justice. Nothing short of justice," Uhuru said in the middle of a throng of singing and chanting supporters on the courthouse



On Thursday, three prominent Kenyans also appeared at the court and declared their innocence to crimes against humanity charges in violence that erupted after disputed 2007 presidential elections.

steps. "When you are innocent, there is nothing to worry about. So we had nothing to fear." Uhuru is the son of Kenya's first post-independence president Jomo Kenyatta and is considered a serious contender in next year's presidential elections. Asked if he feared his presidential bid could be derailed by the case, he answered: "I don't believe so, because eventually not only Kenyans but the whole world will know what the truth is and the truth is we are innocent." On

Thursday, three other prominent Kenyans also appeared at the court and declared their innocence to crimes against humanity charges in violence that erupted after disputed 2007 presidential elections. Some 1,000 people died and 600,000 were forced from their homes. A hearing to weigh prosecution evidence so judges can decide if it merits sending the case to trial was scheduled for Sept. 21. A status conference to discuss pretrial issues was ordered for April 18. □

The Ryan Journey



By DAVID BROOKS

© 2011 New York Times

For decades, academics and think tankers have been proposing plans to avert a fiscal catastrophe. The ensuing debates were always sedate, high-minded affairs. Now Republican political leaders have come up with a bold proposal of their own and the atmosphere is totally different. Liberals are on the warpath. Republicans are aroused. This is great. It's democracy – how change begins.

The best thing about the long-term budget proposal from Paul Ryan, the Republican chairman of the House Budget Committee, is that it forces Americans to confront the implications of their choices. If voters want taxes that amount to roughly 18 percent of GDP, then they are going to have to accept a government that looks roughly like what Ryan is describing. The Democrats are on defense because they are unwilling to ask voters to confront the implications of their choices. Democrats seem to believe that most Americans want to preserve the 20th-century welfare state programs. But they are unwilling to ask voters to pay for them, and they are unwilling to describe the tax increases that would be required to cover their exploding future costs. Raising taxes on the rich will not do it. There aren't enough rich people to generate the tens of trillions of dollars required to pay for Medicare, let alone all the other programs. Democrats, thus, face a fundamental choice. They can either reverse President Barack Obama's no-new-middle-class-taxes pledge or they can learn to live with Paul Ryan's

version of government.

Until they find a way to pay for the programs they support, they will not be serious players in this game. They will have no credible plans and will be in an angry but permanent retreat. Because he had the courage to take the initiative, Ryan's budget plan will be the starting point for future discussions, at least as long as Republicans control at least one house of Congress. But it should be acknowledged that the Ryan plan has several grave weaknesses. As presently configured, it is unacceptable to moderate voters and stands no chance of passage. Substantively, it does not address the structural problems plaguing the American economy: wage stagnation, inequality, declining growth rates. It doesn't have an answer to rising health care costs. Nor does it leave room for future policy creativity; there's no money to allow future generations to rise to unforeseen challenges. So, while acknowledging that Ryan has done the nation a great service by providing a starting point, we should expect his budget to evolve as the debate goes forward. First, though Ryan is absolutely right to call for a fundamental reform of the tax code, we should probably aim to generate tax revenues equal to 20 percent of GDP, not the 18 percent he proposes. This would allow us to preserve some of the discretionary spending programs that Ryan cuts. For example, Ryan would cut Pell grants to their 2008 levels. This is not the horrendous monstrosity some liberals are screaming about. But the economic challenge from China and India demands that we spend more on Pell grants, scientific research, early childhood education and other investments in human capital than Ryan proposes. Second, we can't let the oldsters get off scot-free. As my colleague David Leonhardt reported in The Times, two 56-years-olds with average earnings will pay about \$140,000 in dedicated Medicare taxes over their lifetimes. □



Cartoonists International: www.nytimes.com/cartoons

Ludicrous and cruel



BY PAUL KRUGMAN

© 2011 New York Times

Many commentators swooned this week after House Republicans, led by the Budget Committee chairman, Paul Ryan, unveiled their budget proposals. They lavished praise on Ryan, asserting that his plan set a new standard of fiscal seriousness. Well, they should have waited until people who know how to read budget numbers had a chance to study the proposal. For the GOP plan turns out not to be serious at all. Instead, it's simultaneously ridiculous and heartless. How ridiculous is it? Let me count the ways – or rather a few of the ways, because there are more howlers in the plan than I can cover in one column. First, Republicans have once again gone all in for voodoo economics – the claim, refuted by experience, that tax cuts pay for themselves. Specifically, the Ryan proposal trumpets the results of an economic projection from the Heritage Foundation, which claims that the plan's tax cuts would set off a gigantic boom.

Indeed, the foundation initially predicted that the GOP plan would bring the unemployment rate down to 2.8 percent – a number we haven't achieved since the Korean War. After widespread jeering, the unemployment projection vanished from the Heritage Foundation's website, but voodoo still permeates the rest of the analysis.

In particular, the original voodoo proposition – the claim that lower taxes mean higher revenue – is still very much there. The Heritage Foundation projection has large tax cuts actually increasing revenue by almost \$600 billion over the next 10 years.

A more sober assessment from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office tells a different story. It finds that a large part of the supposed savings from spending cuts would go, not to reduce the deficit, but to pay for tax cuts. In fact, the budget office finds that over the next decade the plan would lead to bigger deficits and more debt than current law. And about those spending cuts: Leave health care on one side for a moment and focus on the rest of the proposal. It turns out that Ryan and his colleagues are assuming drastic cuts in nonhealth spending without explaining how that is supposed to happen.

How drastic? According to the budget office, which analyzed the plan using assumptions dictated by House Republicans, the proposal calls for spending on items other

than Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid – but including defense – to fall from 12 percent of GDP last year to 6 percent of GDP in 2022, and just 3.5 percent of GDP in the long run.

That last number is less than we currently spend on defense alone; it's not much bigger than federal spending when Calvin Coolidge was president, and the United States, among other things, had only a tiny military establishment. How could such a drastic shrinking of government take place without crippling essential public functions? The plan doesn't say.

And then there's the much-ballyhooed proposal to abolish Medicare and replace it with vouchers that can be used to buy private health insurance.

The point here is that privatizing Medicare does nothing, in itself, to limit health-care costs. In fact, it almost surely raises them by adding a layer of middlemen. Yet the House plan assumes that we can cut health-care spending as a percentage of GDP despite an aging population and rising health care costs.

The only way that can happen is if those vouchers are worth much less than the cost of health insurance. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that by 2030 the value of a voucher would cover only a third of the cost of a private insurance policy equivalent to Medicare as we know it. □



Tiger gives the kids a run at the Masters

Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland tees off at the 15th hole during the second round of the Masters golf tournament Friday, April 8, 2011, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press
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SPORTS Aruba TODAY

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Saturday, April 9, 2011



Caroline Wozniacki, of Denmark, reacts to a bad shot against Yanina Wickmayer during the Family Circle Cup tennis tournament in Charleston, S.C., Friday April 8, 2011. Wozniacki defeated Wickmayer 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Associated Press

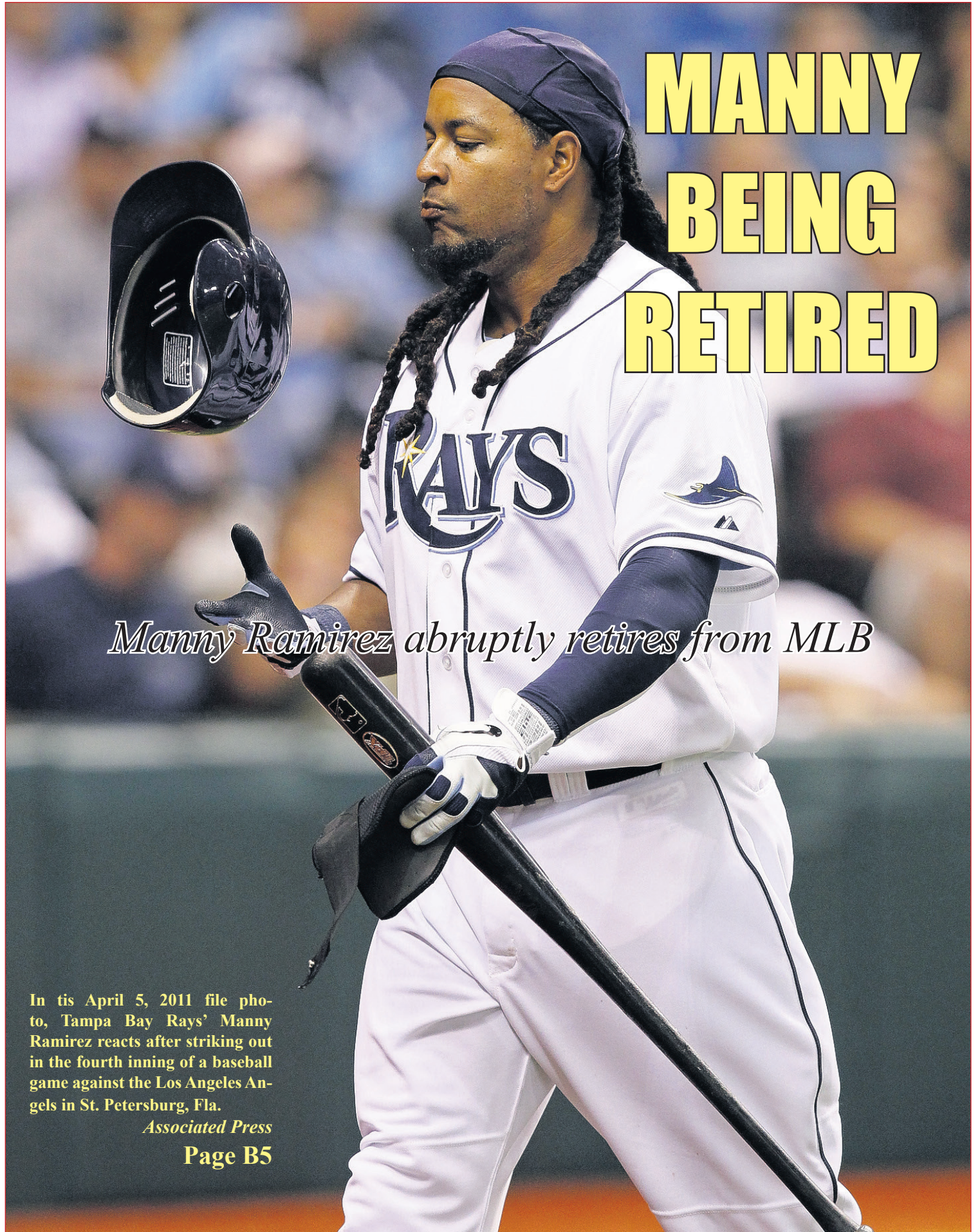
No. 1 Wozniacki rallies to win in three sets

PETE IACOBELLI

AP Sports Writer

CHARLESTON, South Carolina (AP) — Top-ranked Caroline Wozniacki rallied from 4-2 down in the third set to defeat Yanina Wickmayer, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 and reach the Family Circle Cup semifinals on Friday. It was another tight match for Wozniacki, who needed to two tiebreakers a day earlier to beat Barbora Zahlavova Strycova. In this one, Wickmayer looked like the steadier player, winning points with deep forehands and pushing Wozniacki all over the court. Wickmayer kept the pressure on in the second set as she took a 3-1 lead against the Dane.

Continued on Page B4



MANNY BEING RETIRED

Manny Ramirez abruptly retires from MLB

In tis April 5, 2011 file photo, Tampa Bay Rays' Manny Ramirez reacts after striking out in the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

Page B5

Thrashers deal blow to Rangers' playoff hopes



Atlanta Thrashers goalie Ondrej Pavelec (31), of the Czech Republic, stops a shot on the goal by New York Rangers' Ruslan Fedotenko, left, during the second period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, April 7, 2011, in New York.
Associated Press

NHL Roundup

NEW YORK (AP) — Rob Schremp and Andrew Ladd scored 15 seconds apart in the second period as the Atlanta Thrashers delivered a blow to the New York Rangers' playoff hopes with a 3-0 victory in the NHL on Thursday night. Three nights after the Rangers posted their most thrilling win of the season with a late comeback against the Boston Bruins, they looked flat from the start without second-leading scorer Ryan Callahan. New York leads ninth-place Carolina by two points for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference, but the Hurricanes have two games remaining and own the tie-breaker over the Rangers. The Rangers have one game left — a home matchup against New Jersey on Saturday. Ondrej Pavelec made 29 saves for the Thrashers, who

beat New York for the third time in the four-game season series.

Stars 4, Avalanche 2

At Dallas, Loui Eriksson and Brad Richards each had a goal and an assist as Dallas beat Colorado to stay alive in the Western Conference playoff race. Brenden Morrow and Tom Wandell added goals for the Stars, who've won three straight and are now only two points behind Chicago and Anaheim for the final Western Conference playoff berth. Dallas plays at Colorado on Friday night and at Minnesota on Sunday.

Brandon Yip and Mark Olver scored for Colorado.

Canucks 5, Wild 0

In Vancouver, British Columbia, Ryan Kesler scored three goals and Mason Raymond had two as NHL-leading Vancouver closed out its regular-season home schedule with a win. Daniel Sedin added

two assists to push his NHL-leading point total to 102 and Roberto Luongo made 29 saves for his fourth shutout of the season and 55th overall. Niklas Backstrom stopped 18 shots but was replaced by Jose Theodore after Kesler's third goal on a wrist shot 2:18 into the third period.

Senators 3, Canadiens 2, OT
In Ottawa, Filip Kuba scored 1:16 into overtime to lift Ottawa past Montreal. Michael Cammalleri drew Montreal even at 2 with 10.1 seconds left in regulation before Kuba's drive from the point that got past Montreal backup Alex Auld. Jason Spezza also scored for Ottawa, and Craig Anderson made 26 saves.

The Canadiens fell short in their first attempt to give coach Jacques Martin his 600th career victory. They clinched their fourth straight trip to the playoffs with a 2-1 win over Chicago on Tuesday. □

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Rory McIlroy avoids meltdown, keeps Masters lead

PAUL NEWBERRY

AP National Writer

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) — Rory McIlroy shot a 3-under 69 at the Masters on Friday that put him at the head of a charging pack including a bunch of youngsters, one older champion and a very familiar challenger, Tiger Woods. The 21-year-old from Northern Ireland went 29 holes before he made his first bogey at the picturesque 12th hole, where his tee shot plopped into a bunker and he couldn't get up and down. Otherwise, he showed a maturity beyond his years.

"I drove it good. I gave myself a lot of opportunities. I just didn't make as many putts as I would've liked on the back nine," McIlroy said. "But I can't really complain. I'm in the lead going to the weekend at the Masters."

He's clearly gotten over any bad memories from last year's British Open, where he opened with a 63 and fell apart the next day in a howling wind to shoot 80.

Among those McIlroy will be trying to hold off is Woods, the four-time Masters champion mired in the longest losing

streak of his career.

He's always a contender at Augusta. This year, it seems, will be no different.

Playing in the next-to-last group, Woods got off to a rough start. His very first tee shot found a bunker, leading to bogey. He took another with a weak chip at No. 3, the shortest par-4 on the course. But Woods found his rhythm around the turn with three straight birdies. Then, in the waning sunlight, he strung together three more in a row and just missed a fourth at the 16th, a short but slick putt sliding just wide of the hole. McIlroy will be paired in the final group Saturday with one of his playing partners from the first two days, Jason Day. The 23-year-old Australian is another of golf's young guns, and he showed no respect for a course he's playing for the first time this week. Day made eight birdies in the best round of the tournament, a 64 that sent him surging up the leaderboard. He's only two shots behind McIlroy's 10-under 134 total.

The third member of their group, 22-year-old Californian Rickie Fowler, also was in contention. He posted a 69 — meaning the threesome combined for a 14-under score — and was in a group at 139.

"It was fun playing with Rory and Rickie out there," Day said. "I can't even remember shooting 8 under. It was just a lot of great golf and I'm looking forward to the weekend."

"I'm sure I will be very nervous. I'll try to relax tonight and just go out there and have fun."

While the focus at this Masters has been on youth, let's not forget the older guys.

Fred Couples, the 1992 champion, was in contention for the second year in a row. Wearing those comfortable golf sneakers that help him deal with a balky back, he strolled around the course as though he owns the place on the way to a 68 that took his score to 139.

"I know the course more than most people," he said, "and that helps."

The 51-year-old Couples made a serious run at another green jacket last year. He led after the first round and wound up sixth, seven strokes behind winner Phil Mickelson. □



Tiger Woods pumps his fist after a birdie on the 18th hole during the second round of the Masters golf tournament Friday, April 8, 2011, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

Phelps 2 for 2 at Michigan Grand Prix

The Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Michigan (AP) — Michael Phelps won the 200 freestyle and 100 butterfly Friday night at the Michigan Grand Prix.

Phelps came from behind to beat Ryan Lochte in the 200 free, making a push in the final 30 meters to finish in 1:48.45. Lochte, who entered the finals with the second-fastest time in Friday morning's preliminaries, finished in 1:48.69.

Phelps led from start to finish in the 100 butterfly, clocking a time of 52.30 seconds. □



Michael Phelps swims at Canham Natatorium at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich., Thursday, April 7, 2011.

Associated Press

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NBA Roundup

Bulls top Celtics 97-81



The Chicago Bulls' Derrick Rose, right, looks to pass against Boston Celtics' Kevin Garnett, left, during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game in Chicago, Thursday, April 7, 2011.

CHICAGO (AP) — Derrick Rose scored 30 points to lead the Chicago Bulls to a 97-81 victory over the Boston Celtics in the NBA on Thursday, helping the Bulls close in on the top playoff seed in the Eastern Conference. The Bulls' 17th win in 19 games put them four games up on Boston and Miami with four to play and eliminated the Heat from getting the No. 1 seed and home-court advantage throughout the playoffs. Luol Deng scored 23 points

and Carlos Boozer added 14 points and 12 rebounds for the Bulls. Paul Pierce scored 15 points and Kevin Garnett and Jeff Green each had 10 for Boston, which still has a chance for the top seed, albeit a remote one. Trail Blazers 98, Jazz 87 In Salt Lake City, Gerald Wallace scored 29 points and Nicolas Batum added 21 to lead Portland over sinking Utah. Wallace scored 20 points in the second half as the Blazers

wore down the injury-depleted Jazz, who had only nine healthy players. The loss assured Utah of its second losing season in 28 years. Wesley Matthews scored 18 points and LaMarcus Aldridge had 12 for the Blazers, who moved into sole possession of the sixth playoff spot in the Western Conference, a half game ahead of New Orleans. Devin Harris, who returned after missing five games with a strained hamstring, led the Jazz with 26 points. □

Associated Press

Wozniacki

Continued from Page B/1

But as Wozniacki did against Zahlavova Strycova, she pulled herself up with a string of laser forehands and well-placed shots. Wozniacki won five of final six games to even the match.

Again, Wickmayer grabbed control in the decisive set, breaking Wozniacki on the way to her 4-2 lead.

"I knew that I was going to get one chance, and I had to take that," Wozniacki said.

Wozniacki won the next game at love, then broke Wickmayer's serve. When Wickmayer threatened to break a game later, Wozniacki pounded a 110 mph serve that her opponent couldn't handle.

Wickmayer sailed a forehand wide and Wozniacki was in front for good. Wickmayer had little left in her final service game, which Wozniacki took at love to win the match.

"In every match, she finds a way to get out of it and beat her opponent," Wickmayer said. "That's most important." Wozniacki pumped her fist and smiled widely when Wickmayer's shot went out, then waved and blew kisses to the crowd at stadium court. "I mean, it's unbelievable. Everyone is cheering for me and it's such a great feeling," she said. "I feel like a local, really." Wozniacki has stuck around deep into the tournament the three times she's played. In 2009, she reached the final before losing to Sa-



Jelena Jankovic, of Serbia, makes a return to Christina McHale during the Family Circle Cup tennis tournament in Charleston, S.C., Friday April 8, 2011. Jankovic won 6-2, 6-0.

Associated Press

bine Lisicki. A year ago, she was in the semifinals when she had to retire with an ankle injury.

Wozniacki will face another difficult semifinal on Saturday against Jelena Jankovic, who ended the run of 18-year-old American Christina McHale 6-2, 6-0. Jankovic, 26, reached No. 1 in the world in 2008 and understands better than anyone the pressure that comes with that position. And Jankovic, who has not dropped a set in her first three matches, is playing as well as anyone left, including Wozniacki. "I'm feeling good," Jankovic said. "My game is getting better and better." Jankovic, the 2007 champion here, has won four of five career meetings with Wozniacki. None of those, however, took place on the slower, green clay at Family Circle Tennis Center. □

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Rays slugger Ramirez announces his retirement

DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Tampa Bay slugger Manny Ramirez tested positive for a banned substance for the second time and informed Major League Baseball on Friday that he is retiring rather than face a 100-game suspension.

A person familiar with the events that led to the announcement confirmed to The Associated Press that Ramirez tested positive for a performance-enhancing drug. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the nature of Ramirez' issue with MLB's drug policy was not publicly disclosed.

The commissioner's office announced Ramirez's decision in a statement, but provided few details. Ramirez previously served a 50-game suspension for violating the drug policy while he was with the Los Angeles Dodgers and second-time offenders get double that penalty.

"Major League Baseball recently notified Manny Ramirez of an issue under Major League Baseball's Joint Drug Prevention and Treatment Program," the statement said.

"Rather than continue with the process under the Program, Ramirez has informed MLB that he is retiring as an active player. If Ramirez seeks reinstatement in the future, the process under the Drug Program will be completed."

MLB said it would have no further comment.

"The Tampa Bay Rays were informed today by the Commissioner's Office that Manny Ramirez has decided to retire after being informed of an issue under the Drug Program," the Rays said in a statement. "We are obviously surprised and disappointed by this news. We will have no further comment on this matter, and our fans and organization will carry on."

The 38-year-old outfielder-designated hitter left the team earlier this week to attend to what the Rays called a family matter. Manager Joe Maddon said Thursday that he expect-

ed Ramirez to be available for Friday night's game at the Chicago White Sox, but he never showed up.

Ramirez played in only five games for the Rays, with one hit in 17 at-bats.

Rays outfielder Johnny Damon said he began hearing late Thursday that Ramirez wouldn't be returning to the team, but he didn't know the reason.

"I am surprised," Damon said. "This spring he played well."

The 12-time All-Star agreed to a \$2 million, one-year contract with the defending AL East champions in the off-season, hoping to re-establish himself as one of the game's feared hitters.

Ramirez struggled with injuries but still hit .298 with nine homers and 42 RBIs in 90 games for the Dodgers and White Sox last season. He's a career .312 hitter with 555 home runs in 18-plus seasons, including some of his best with the Cleveland Indians and Boston Red Sox.

It was after signing with the Dodgers, though, that his reputation was sullied.

The erratic Ramirez performed well on the field and became a fan favorite, with "Mannywood" signs popping up around town, and wound up signing a \$45 million, two-year contract to remain with the Dodgers. But in May 2009, he was suspended for testing positive for human chorionic gonadotropin, a banned female fertility drug that is often used to help mask steroid use. According to a report in the New York Times later that summer, Ramirez also tested positive for performance-enhancing substances during Major League Baseball's anonymous survey testing in 2003. Ramirez was a member of the Red Sox during that time.

"I'm shocked," said Colorado's Jason Giambi, who has acknowledged taking steroids during his own career. "He always kind of portrayed that he was out there but he knew how to hit, man. He was unbelievable when it came to hitting." His retirement comes



In this photo taken April 6, 2011, Tampa Bay Rays' Manny Ramirez watches from the dugout during a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Associated Press

as baseball, which has been working hard to put its so-called Steroids Era in the past, has another of its great hitters, Barry Bonds, on trial in San Francisco. Bonds is facing federal charges that he lied to a grand jury in 2003 by denying that he willfully used performance-enhancing drugs.

The Rays, winless through their first six games, hoped the Manny they signed this season would be the same Manny who was MVP of the 2004 World Series when he was with the Red Sox.

"Might have been running out of bullets," said Phillies manager Charlie Manuel, who worked with Ramirez in Cleveland. "Father Time was catching up to him."

At his best, Ramirez was one of the game's great hitters, finishing in the top five in MVP voting four times. He led the American League with a .349 batting average in 2002, finished second the following year, and had an AL-best 43 home runs in 2004. □



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Gov't announces plan to reduce health disparities



Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. Howard Koh is taken at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building across from the White House in Washington.

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
Associated Press
WASHINGTON — From cradle to grave, minority populations tend to suffer poorer health and get poorer health care than white Americans. In a first-of-its-kind report, the

government is recommending steps to reduce those disparities.

The plan being released Friday runs the gamut from improving dental care for poor children to tapping “promotoras,” savvy community health workers who can help guide their Spanish-speaking neighbors in seeking treatment. But it acknowledges that giving everyone an equal shot at living a healthy life depends on far more than what happens inside a doctor’s office or steps that federal health officials can take.

“It’s also a product of where people live, labor, learn, play and pray,” Dr. Howard Koh, assistant secretary of Health and Human Services, told The Associated Press. “We really need a full commitment from the country to achieve these goals.” HHS wouldn’t put a dollar figure on its own pending projects, but said it plans to pay for them with money already in hand and not subject to Congress’ ongoing budget battle. □

Alcohol ‘a major cause of cancer’

PARIS — About one in 10 cancers in men and one in 33 in women in western European countries are caused by current and past alcohol consumption, according to a study released on Friday. For some types of cancer, the rates are significantly higher, it said.

In 2008, for men, 44, 25 and 33 percent of upper digestive track, liver and colon cancers respectively were caused by alcohol in six of the countries examined, the study found.

The countries were Britain, Italy, Spain, Greece, Germany and Denmark.

The study also showed that half of these cancer cases



About one in 10 cancers in men and one in 33 in women in western European countries are caused by current and past alcohol consumption, according to a study.

occurred in men who drank more than a recommended daily limit of 24 grammes of alcohol, roughly two small glasses of wine or a pint of beer.

Health Tip:

Spot Warning Signs of Low Blood Sugar

Hypoglycemia is the medical term for low blood glucose, common among people with diabetes.

It can occur even when you’re trying hard to manage your blood sugar levels.

The American Diabetes Association says while you can’t always prevent hypoglycemia, you can take steps to treat it if you know the warning signs:

Sweating or turning pale.
Feeling dizzy or shaking.
Developing a headache.
Feeling hungry.
Showing moodiness, or rapid behavior changes.
Moving awkwardly or clumsily.



Device to measure your blood status

sily.
Having a seizure.
Acting confused, or having

problems paying attention.
Having a tingly feeling around the mouth. □

Home safety products can prevent injuries in kids

By Genevra Pittman
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Installing stair gates, cabinet locks, and smoke detectors led to a drop in injury rates in young children in a new study that provided and set up the safety products in almost 200 homes. Injuries that could be prevented by making the home

environment safer were cut by more than two-thirds, the researchers found.

“It seems to me that there’s a number of hazards that children encounter in the home that we have failed to protect them from,” said Dr. Bruce Lanphear from Cincinnati Children’s Environmental Health, one of the study’s authors. This initiative, he told AP Health, “is actually amazingly effective.”

We didn’t expect to see quite this much benefit,” Lanphear and his colleagues recruited about 350 expectant mothers and inspected their homes for possible injury hazards, including unlocked cabinets, unstable furniture, and accessible electrical sockets. In a randomly selected group of half those mothers, the researchers discussed safety products with the family and installed all products the families agreed to when their babies were an average of 6 months old.

All mothers in the study were also given information on injury risks and how to make their homes safer for kids.



Protected electrical socket

Over the next 2 years, researchers kept in touch with mothers to find out if their children had suffered an injury in the house.

and whether it was an injury that could have been prevented with home safety products. In a given year, there were an average of 14 injuries requiring medical care for every 100 kids whose homes had safety equipment installed, compared to 21 injuries for every 100 kids that did not. However, a statistical analysis showed that the risk of any injury was not definitively different in the two groups. □

SEC weighs new rules for private companies' stock

DANIEL WAGNER
DAVID KOENIG
AP Business Writers

DALLAS (AP) — The Securities and Exchange Commission is considering whether to ease rules on private companies that issue shares.

Chairman Mary Schapiro said in a speech Friday that she has asked the SEC staff to review the rules. The changes might make it easier for companies such as Facebook and Twitter to raise money by issuing stock, without facing costly reporting requirements imposed on public companies.

Private companies can keep their finances secret if they have fewer than 500 shareholders. If they have more, they must provide details on their companies and finances.

The new rules might replace the process by which technology companies and other startups offer shares publicly through initial public offerings. Companies that have IPOs must disclose financial details about themselves.

Earlier this week, Schapiro sent a letter to Rep. Darrell Issa, a California Republican, notifying him of the review. Issa, who is chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, had previously raised concerns with Schapiro that the current rules discourage investment and limit economic growth. The current rules are designed to stop insiders from trading shares using information that is not available publicly. In her letter to Issa, Schapiro said the agency must walk a fine line, protecting investors from insider trading while making it easier for private companies to raise money.

Companies “should not be overburdened by unnecessary or superfluous regulations,” Schapiro said in the letter. “At the same time, all offerings must, of course, provide the necessary information and protections to give investors the confidence they need to invest in our markets,” she said.

The staff review aims to develop ideas to reduce companies' cost of compliance without sacrificing investor protection, she said. In addition to Facebook and Twitter, the rules would affect the daily discount site Groupon and Zynga, the maker the online game “FarmVille.” Many of these companies are startups in name only. They have thousands of employees and estimated billions of dollars in yearly revenue. But they have put off going public. That's partly because they already have access to capital from deep-pocketed investors and venture capitalists. □

U.S. House votes to repeal rules on Internet access

JIM ABRAMS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans have passed a bill to repeal federal rules barring Internet service providers from blocking or setting different prices for some uses of their networks, saying the U.S. government should keep its hands off the Internet. Republicans said the Federal Communications Commission lacked the authority to promulgate rules on “network neutrality.” They disputed the need to interfere with an already-open Internet and said the rules would stifle investment in broadband systems. The bill to overturn the FCC rules faces an uncertain future in the Democratic-led Senate. The White House has issued a veto threat. The rules, issued last December, prohibit phone and cable companies from favoring or discriminating against Internet content and services. They require broadband providers to let subscribers access all legal online content. □



In this Feb. 9, 2011 photo, the logo of ITA Software is displayed at the company's office in Cambridge, Mass.

Associated Press

U.S. lets Google purchase travel software company

JOELLE TESSLER
AP Technology Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Government officials are imposing significant conditions on Google Inc. as they allowed the Internet search leader on Friday to proceed with its \$700 million purchase of airline fare tracker ITA Software. The purchase will establish the Internet search giant as a key player in online travel. ITA gives Google control over the technology that powers the reservation systems of most major U.S. airlines and many popular online fare-comparison services, including Kayak, TripAdvisor and Hotwire. But to win Justice Department clearance Friday, Google agreed to license ITA's software to other companies on fair and reasonable terms through 2016, and to continue to invest in research and development of new products, which it would also have to license. Google previously promised only to honor all of ITA's current contracts, which expire over the next few years. ITA officials had worried that Google would keep its innovations for itself. Under the terms of the approval, any disputes would be subject to binding arbitration. Google also agreed to establish a separation between ITA and other

Google operations to ensure that it cannot misuse proprietary customer data or technology that resides on or runs through ITA servers.

In addition, the government will monitor Google to ensure it does not engage in anticompetitive behavior. That could include manipulating its powerful Internet search engine to steer consumers to its own services — or bury links to rivals far down in its search results — if it uses ITA to enter the online travel business. The company will be subject to broad requirements to report to government officials on its online travel operations, including travel search and advertising. In addition, the government will establish a forum for complaints about Google's behavior. Google could eventually lay the groundwork for a broader investigation by either the Justice Department or the Federal Trade Commission into Google's practices as it expands beyond general Internet search into more specialized markets. The company's search results already highlight some of its own specialized services, including mapping, video and finance. The European Commission and the Texas attorney general are currently looking into whether Google manipulates

search results to extend its monopoly into other online businesses. Google has promised it won't sell airline tickets or book other travel arrangements on its own site. Rather, it has said it wants to use ITA to improve its search results for travel — giving consumers more choices and better ways to search for plane tickets. That would enable the company to command higher ad rates from airlines, hotels, rental car agencies and other leisure services trying to reach travelers. Google offered a hint on what could be coming in a blog post Friday. It suggested that by simply typing in “flights to somewhere sunny for under \$500 in May” into Google, the user would get not just a set of links but also flight times, fares and a link to sites for buying the trip. Joseph Wayland, deputy assistant attorney general of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division, said in a statement Friday that online airfare comparison services that rely on ITA software will still be able to compete, though. That point was echoed by a coalition of online travel services — including Expedia Inc., Microsoft Corp.'s Bing, Travelocity, Kayak Software Corp. and Farelogix Inc. — that had banded together to oppose the ITA deal. □



Southwest Airlines mechanics work near a Boeing 737 on a tarmac in Yuma, Ariz., on Wednesday, April 6, 2011, after patching a large hole in the jetliner that made an emergency landing in southwestern Arizona last week. Associated Press

U.S. airlines attempt to raise fares for 10th time

By SAMANTHA BOMKAMP
AP Airlines Writer

NEW YORK — At least two major U.S. airlines are again raising round-trip ticket prices by \$10 on some domestic routes as they try to counter rising fuel costs.

US Airways initiated the fare increase late Thursday on most routes.

Delta Air Lines later followed, mostly on routes where it competes with discount airlines. JetBlue and Virgin America have already matched the increase, airline analyst Jaime Baker said Friday.

JetBlue also extended the travel period for the increases to include dates before and after the peak summer travel season.

AirTran is also raising fares on some routes, not including those to and from Atlanta, where it competes with Delta.

This is the first time AirTran has attempted a major fare increase in several months, Baker noted.

Airlines have tried widespread price increases nine times this year. Six stuck. The last three failed within days because other airlines didn't raise prices too.

One way to tell if the latest attempt will be successful is if Southwest Airlines joins in and raises fares. It carries more passengers than any other airline in the U.S. and also regularly undercuts the major airlines' fares.

Oil is now above \$110 per barrel, having risen 21 percent so far this year. Fare watcher Rick Seaneey points out that the airlines successfully raised prices four times in April 2008 when oil prices rose from \$102 to \$117. Oil has already gained more than \$4 per barrel this month. □

Sanofi-Aventis completes buyout of Genzyme Corp.

NEW YORK (AP) — Sanofi-Aventis said Friday it has completed its \$20.1 billion buyout of specialty drugmaker Genzyme Corp. In February, Sanofi raised its buyout offer to \$74 per share and agreed to make additional cash payments pending the success of several drugs. That move came about after nine months of reluctance from Genzyme to accept a prior \$69 per share offer. Sanofi, based in Paris, is best known for its vaccines.

Mea while, Genzyme, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, makes biotech drugs aimed at treating genetic diseases. Genzyme's best-seller Cerzyme treats Gaucher disease, an enzyme disorder that can result in liver and neurological problems. Its second-best seller, Fabrazyme, treats an inherited disorder known as Fabry disease, which is caused by the buildup of a particular type of fat in the eyes, kidneys and nervous system. □



NYSE gets a facelift, its future unknown

By DAVID K. RANDALL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — What do you do when a cathedral of capitalism becomes antiquated? You turn it into New York's best party space.

The New York Stock Exchange has lost most of its famous shoulder-to-shoulder bustle in the age of computerized trading. So it's hoping its status as an icon of American finance will be a popular draw for cocktail receptions, analyst presentations and other festivities.

The exchange, where traders have nervously watched tickers and shouted orders for more than 100 years, is already available for some events. It wants to expand to 1,000 a year, double the number from three years ago.

Think black tie, not Black Monday.

"Planners are always looking for something that's different and unique, and there's only one stock exchange," said Ken Edwards, an executive at SmartSource Rentals who serves as the president of the New York chapter of a national meeting planners organization.

"From an experience standpoint, that it's getting a facelift now is an absolute sign that they think that there's a recovery going on."

In addition to the trading floor, the exchange rents out updated meeting spaces to companies and charities. They include vaulted-ceiling dining rooms and a lounge with gilt-edged walls that used to be a club for stock traders. Company officials wouldn't say what they were spending on the renovations, which are expected to be finished by the end of next year.

It's a renovation borne out of necessity. Hosting meetings is



This artist rendering provided on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 by the New York Stock Exchange shows the proposed renovation of the posts on the NYSE trading floor. With renovations already underway and expected to finish at the end of 2012, The New York Stock Exchange is hoping its status as an icon of American finance will be a popular draw for cocktail receptions, analyst presentations and other festivities. In addition to the trading floor, the exchange rents out updated meeting spaces to companies and charities. Associated Press

a small part of the company's overall profits, but shows how far the building has come from its days as the center of the daily churn global capitalism. Since the last renovation of the building in 1995, the business model of the stock exchange has changed drastically.

Fewer traders than ever actually work on the floor. Steven Grasso, the director of institutional sales at Stuart Frankel & Co., compared stepping onto the floor of the New York Stock Exchange for the first time in 1994 to walking out of the dugout at Yankees Stadium. Traders stood shoulder to shoulder on the trading floor, screaming at each other and into telephones, their feet littered with

discarded orders.

"Now, I can do more with my hand-held device than I ever could back then," he says, swinging his arms wide on the trading floor.

No other trader was within 10 feet of him.

There are a couple of strategic reasons for the renovation, which comes while the company's future is uncertain. NYSE Euronext Inc. agreed in February to be acquired by a German exchange operator. Last week, however, its long-time domestic rival Nasdaq OMX Group Inc. announced that it had teamed up with derivatives operator IntercontinentalExchange Inc. to offer a 19 percent higher bid. Both proposals are still pending. NYSE Euronext gets more

and more of its profits from companies that list their shares on the exchange or rent out its rooms. The company brought in \$3.1 billion in revenue from trading last year, down from \$3.5 billion two years ago and the second year of decline. That figure includes both the conventional trading of stocks but also the far more lucrative business of trading more exotic financial instruments like options and futures contracts.

At the same time its stock listings business has grown from \$395 million to \$422 million. The company now brings in nearly 25 percent less money for each 100 shares handled compared with two years ago. At the same time, the number of shares it handles are

dwindling. A decade ago, the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange accounted for roughly 80 percent of the volume of the blue chip stocks listed on it like General Electric Co. and Procter & Gamble Co. Now, thanks to regulatory changes and the rise of electronic exchanges such as the Kansas City-based BATS, the figure is closer to 25 percent.

The exchange building is seen as an asset that gives the company a premium brand. The prestige and media attention devoted to its trading floor have long allowed NYSE Euronext to charge companies more for listing their shares than its competitors. "The building itself is a part of our legacy and a big part of our (value)," said Joseph Mecane, an executive vice president at NYSE Euronext Inc. who oversees the listings of U.S. companies.

The building and trading floor are attractive for suitors like electronic-only exchange Nasdaq. "The trading floor is fantastic for marketing," said Michael Wong, an analyst at Morningstar.

"Every company would like to ring the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange, and that's an intangible that BATS or another competitor can't duplicate."

The last physical upgrades to the exchange building were completed in 1995. Since then, NYSE Euronext has devoted more of its resources to upgrading its technology. The company opened a 400,000 square foot data center 30 miles outside of Manhattan in suburban Mahwah, New Jersey last year. Its servers are now at the heart of the exchange, routing trade orders coming from humans and computer programs. □

Oil settles above \$112 as dollar falls



Trader Richard Newman, center, works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Friday, April 8, 2011. Associated Press

CHRIS KAHN
AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Oil surged above \$112 a barrel in New York Friday and Brent topped \$126 following a drop in the dollar and continued jitters about shipments from the world's major oil suppliers. Benchmark West Texas Intermediate for May delivery jumped \$2.49, or 2.3 percent, to settle at \$112.79 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Crude oil set new 30-month highs almost every day this week.

In London, Brent crude rose \$3.86 to settle at \$126.12 on the ICE Futures exchange. Oil moved higher as the dollar plunged against other major currencies.

Oil is traded in dollars and

tends to rise when the greenback falls and makes crude cheaper for investors holding foreign currency.

The looming shutdown of the federal government threatened to weaken the dollar further and encouraged more buying, according to analysts. Oil also climbed on fears that violence in Nigeria ahead of the country's national election this weekend could lead to supply interruptions. And in Venezuela a massive blackout appears to have affected some refineries, analysts said.

The two countries supply a combined 2 million barrels of oil per day to the U.S.

If crude prices keep rising, experts say, gasoline prices could hit \$4 a gallon (\$1.05 a liter) across the U.S. this sum-

mer.

Pump prices have jumped from \$3.07 to \$3.74 per gallon since the beginning of the year. The swift rise forced the Oil Price Information Service to boost its retail gasoline price forecast to a range of \$3.75 to \$4 per gallon this year.

OPIS chief oil analyst Tom Kloza said it may not be long before the national average tests the all-time record of \$4.11 per gallon set in July 2008. Further price hikes could do serious damage to the U.S. economy, he said. For consumers, "gas prices have more relevance on an emotional level than a lot of other things that they pay for," Kloza said. "People pay more attention to gasoline than phone service, cable TV or other services," Kloza said.

Oil and gasoline prices began a steady rise in February, as the Libyan rebellion shut down the country's daily exports of 1.5 million barrels of oil. Libya produces about 2 percent of world demand, and analysts say making up for those losses will severely reduce the ability of other oil-producing countries to increase production in the future. Saudi Arabia and other OPEC countries are covering some of the shortfall in Libyan crude, which went mainly to refineries in Europe. □

Banks in Ill., Nev. fail; 28 closed in 2011

WASHINGTON — Regulators on Friday shut down small banks in Illinois and Nevada, lifting the number of U.S. bank failures so far this year to 28 after 157 succumbed in 2010 to the gutted economy and mounting bad loans. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. seized Western Springs National Bank and Trust, in Western Springs, Ill., with \$186.8 million in assets and \$181.9 million in deposits. It also closed Las Vegas-based Nevada Commerce Bank, with \$144.9 million in assets and \$136.4 million in deposits. The failures of Western Springs and Nevada Commerce are expected to cost the deposit insurance fund \$31 million and \$31.9 million, respectively. Heartland Bank and Trust Co., based in Bloomington, Ill., will assume the assets and deposits of Western Springs National Bank. Los Angeles-based City National Bank is taking over Nevada Commerce Bank. □

'Idol' it's not:

New show wants country superstar



Producer Nigel Lythgoe, left, and his son, producer Simon Lythgoe pose on the press line at the premiere of the feature film 'Tropic Thunder' in Los Angeles.

By CAITLIN R. KING
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — It will take more than just a good voice to win the new country music talent competition, "CMT's Next Superstar."

Contestants also have to prove their songwriting skills, musical chops and media savvy through weekly challenges on the new show, premiering Friday night.

"This is not a shiny-floor show," said executive producer Nigel Lythgoe in a recent interview. "This is a get-down-and-dirty show. If we want you to go out to a biker bar, that's where you're go-

ing to go. You're not just in Hollywood on a Los Angeles stage." If you think that's a dig at "American Idol," consider the source. Lythgoe is the executive producer for "Idol," too. He has teamed with his son, Simon, also an "Idol" producer, to launch the new show, because as he put it, "Country deserves its own program."

The two are well aware of the country music talent show predecessor, "Nashville Star," that aired on USA Network from 2003-2007 and on NBC in 2008, before it was canceled. But they aren't worried about comparisons. In fact, producers considered suing "Nashville Star" at the time because of its similarity to "Idol". "This is a completely different show," said Simon. "We change venues every single episode. We have challenges that put the contestants to the test in how they interview on radio. We put them to the test in their marketability for example. Their songwriting is a huge, key factor in this series."

Five women and five men made the final cut after a nationwide search. The youngest is 22 and the oldest, "Waitin' on a Woman" songwriter Wynn Varble, is 50. □

NBC's 'Today' show faces transitions



NBC co-host Matt Lauer, left, talks with actress Anne Hathaway as she appears on the 'Today' show to talk about her role in the animated film, 'Rio'.

By DAVID BAUDER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — NBC's "Today" show has been one of the most stable and successful programs in the history of television over the past 15 years. Now it faces the possibility of a major makeover. Co-host Meredith Vieira, the "newbie" on "Today" with five years in the early-morning anchor chair, is leaning toward leaving when her contract expires in September, according to multiple reports this week. That news was barely digested when an unconfirmed "Enter-

tainment Tonight" story suggested that her partner, Matt Lauer, also may leave when his contract is done in nearly 21 months. The two anchors have not commented on their futures. "There seems to be an awful lot of speculation on news anchors these days, and it's not our practice to comment on any of it," NBC News spokeswoman Megan Kopf said. As this happens, the "Today" show magic number stands at 798. That's how many consecutive weeks it has been No. 1 in the morning show ratings more than 15

years without a loss to ABC's "Good Morning America," CBS' "The Early Show" or anybody.

It's a gold mine for NBC, particularly important for the company as the network's prime-time fortunes collapsed. The program, now four hours long, earned more than a half-billion dollars for NBC News in 2010, more than it ever has. "A lot of their strength has been that they have had a team together with very strong interpersonal relationships for a long time," said David Westin, former ABC News president.

The team goes beyond the two main anchors, and it is one comfortable with itself and with viewers. Lauer has been with the show since 1994 and co-anchor since replacing Bryant Gumbel in 1997. Newsreader Ann Curry has been there since 1997.

Utility player Al Roker, who forecasts weather, does features and anchors the 9 a.m. hour, joined in 1996. Many Americans have spent more time with them over morning coffee than with their spouses. □

Sotheby's sells record \$447 m of Asian art

HONG KONG — Auction giant Sotheby's sold \$447 million worth of Asian art, wine, watches and jewelry in its Asian spring sales, in another bullish showing for the Chinese art market despite weak results for a monumental collection of Chinese ceramics. The HK\$3.49 billion tally for its 8-day Asian sales in Hong Kong -- now considered the world's third most important art auction hub after New York and London, was the firm's best season ever underpinned by strong Chinese buyers eclipsing even its blockbuster \$400 million autumn season last October. But beneath the banner results were some signs of weakness in the red-hot Chinese ceramics market that is now a cornerstone of Sotheby's biannual and closely watched Asian sales. A major collection of Chinese ceramics, seen



Details of a golden pheasant is seen on the "Falangcai Vase With Golden Pheasants and a Poetic Colophon" at a preview by auction house Sotheby's in Hong Kong.

as one of the best to be sold in decades, failed to live up to expectations in a conspicuous setback for the market, with 30 percent of the porcelain going unsold amid muted bidding, while a collection of Chinese imperial objets d'art including ancient jades, a gilt dragon

and a golden robe ended up 55 percent unsold. The Meiying collection, assembled over half a century by Swiss pharmaceutical tycoons, the Zuellig brothers, was seen to be perhaps the best remaining classic Western collection of Ming and Qing ceramics, but flaws in a few major works, tighter credit requirements for buyers and sky-high estimates weighed on sentiment, dealers and collectors said.

"I think they (Sotheby's) pushed a bit too hard on the prices," said Nader Rasti, a Western dealer of Asian antiques. One exceptional piece -- an eight-inch tall Qing vase with a brilliantly painted pair of golden pheasants, near flawless save for a crack on the stem fastened by rivets, had been expected to fetch \$23 million, but bidding spluttered after the opening price was set at HK\$100 million. □

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French designer says

Red soles are his alone



A woman wearing a pair of Christian Louboutin shoes sits in the front row at the Project Runway Fall 2011 collection during New York Fashion Week.

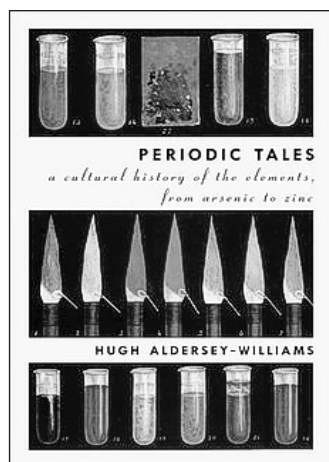
NEW YORK— Paris-based designer Christian Louboutin, whose pumps have graced many fabulous and famous feet, sued fashion rival Yves

Saint Laurent over the use of the color red on shoe soles.

“Mr. Louboutin is the first designer to develop the idea of having red soles on women’s shoes,” said the trademark infringement lawsuit filed in Manhattan federal court on Thursday. Since January, Louboutin said in the suit, he has asked luxury company Yves Saint Laurent America, a subsidiary of the Gucci Group, to stop selling red-soled shoes in the same select Manhattan stores as he does.

“Defendants’ use of red footwear outsoles that are virtually identical to plaintiffs’ Red Sole Mark is likely to cause and is causing confusion, mistake and deception among the relevant purchasing public,” the suit said. The suit asks for a U.S. judge to impose \$1 million in damages and order YSL to stop manufacturing similar designs. □

‘Periodic Tales’ a charming look at the elements



In this book cover image released by Ecco, ‘Periodic Tales: A Cultural History of the Elements, from Arsenic to Zinc,’ by Hugh Aldersey-Williams, is shown.

By DINESH RAMDE
Associated Press

“Periodic Tales: A Cultural History of the Elements, From Arsenic to Zinc” (Ecco), by Hugh Aldersey-Williams. Some people collect coins or baseball cards. Others collect stamps or Pez dispensers. Hugh Aldersey-Williams collects the building blocks of the universe. Aldersey-Williams has been trying to collect pure samples of every element known to humankind from the common to the rare, the inert to the lethal. His quest sprang from a simple desire: to see and feel the elements that otherwise seem to exist only as abbreviations on the periodic table. The author’s scientific sentimentality may be unusual. But he makes it easy to share his passion with his latest book, the charming “Periodic Tales: A Cultural History of the Elements, From Arsenic to Zinc.” □

Underwood makes acting debut in ‘Soul Surfer’



In this film publicity image released by TriStar Pictures, Carrie Underwood is shown in a scene from ‘Soul Surfer.’

By CHRIS TALBOTT
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Carrie Underwood says she’s happy with her first acting performance on the big screen.

The country music star plays a small but pivotal role in the film “Soul Surfer,” the inspirational tale of shark attack survivor Bethany Hamilton.

“I’m happy with myself for the role and for the movie,” Underwood said Monday night in Las Vegas where she had just wrapped up taping “ACM Presents Girls’ Night Out: Superstar Women of Country.” “Am I going to win an Oscar? No. It was so much fun and the important thing is getting the story out there.” Underwood plays youth pastor Sarah Hill, a key figure in Hamilton’s life and recovery after the attack. Hamilton, then 13, lost her left arm when a 14-foot tiger shark ripped it off while she was surfing with friends in Hawaii. “Soul Surfer” is the tale of her recovery and triumphant return to the sport she loves. Underwood says she was transfixed by the story and the message, which made it rise above other scripts and projects she’s been pitched and so far turned down. □

News of the World admits hacking UK celebrity phones

By Jodie Ginsberg
Associated Press

LONDON — Rupert Murdoch’s powerful British news operation admitted responsibility on Friday in a phone hacking scandal involving members of the royal family and celebrities like actress Sienna Miller that has also cost the British prime minister’s spokesman his job. News International, parent company of Britain’s top-selling News of the World tabloid, had always vigorously denied it knew journalists were hacking the phones of the royals, politicians, celebrities and sports stars, and blamed a handful

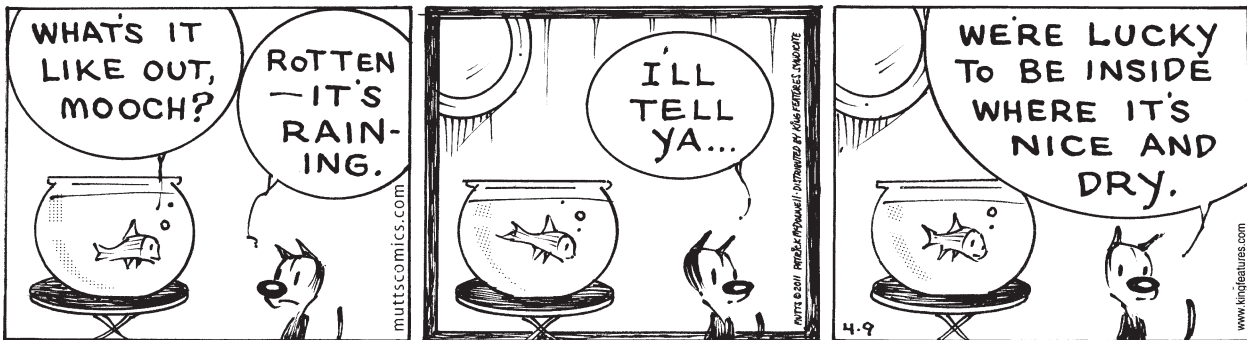
of “rogue reporters” for the scandal.

But on Friday it admitted liability for hacking the phones of eight people including Miller and UK politician Tessa Jowell and agreed to pay compensation. □



Actress Sienna Miller and British politician Tessa Jowell in a combination image.

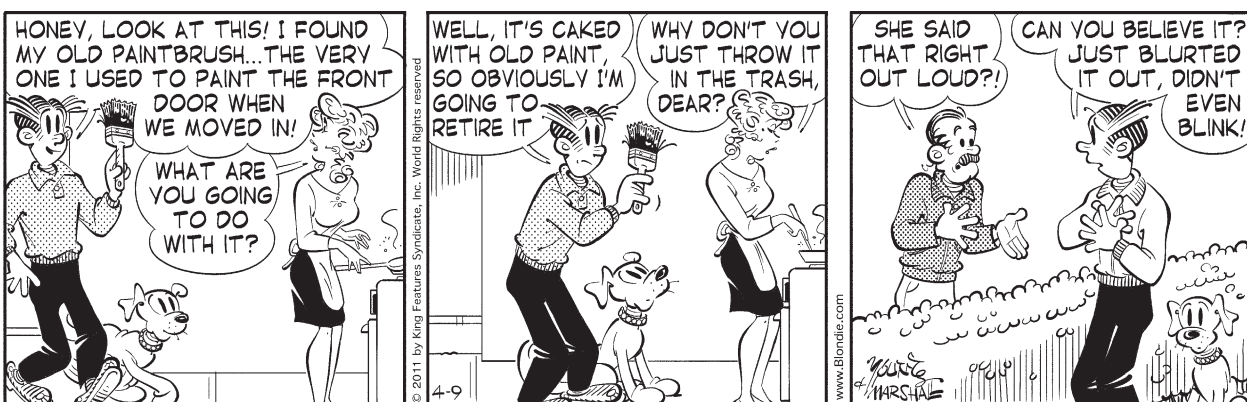
Mutts



6 Chix



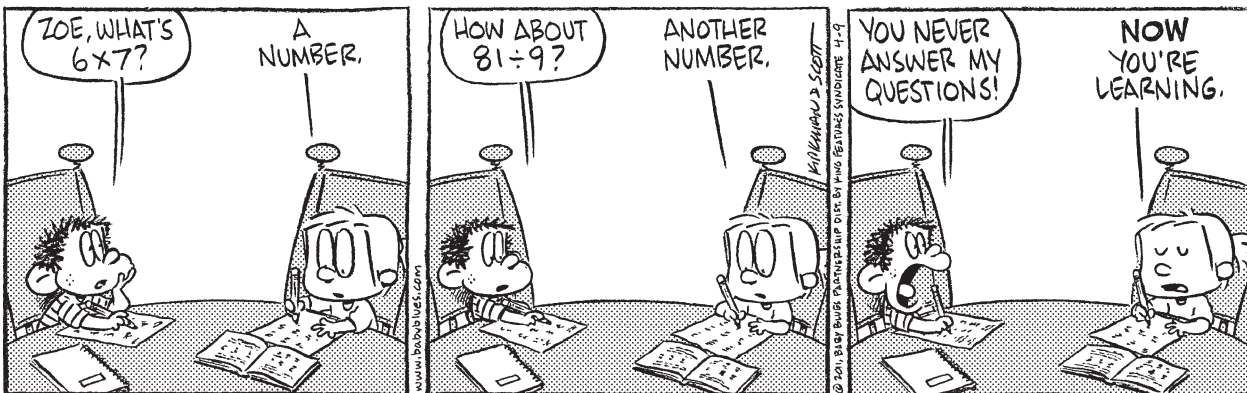
Blondie



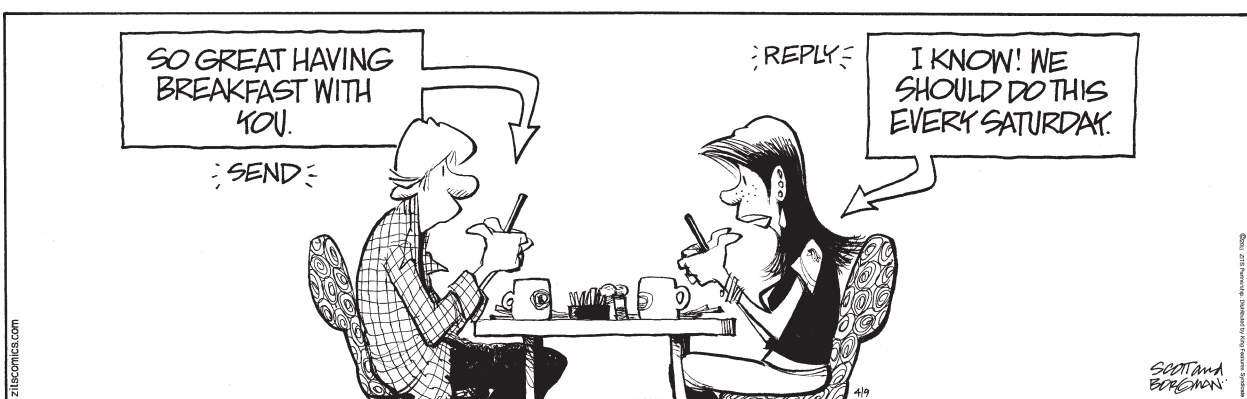
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			8		4		7	
			9					4
		3	5		7			
5	2	6				1		3
1		4				5	2	7
			4		5	3		
2					9			
	7		3		6			

Difficulty Level ★★☆☆

4/09

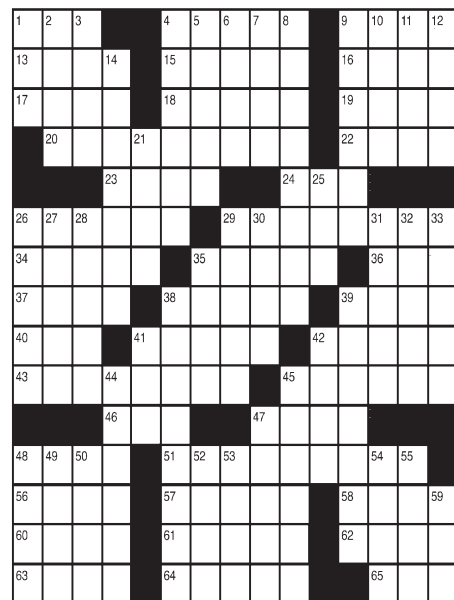
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

5	2	3	6	9	4	7	8	1
9	1	6	3	8	7	4	2	5
4	8	7	1	5	2	9	6	3
1	6	2	5	4	3	8	7	9
3	7	5	8	6	9	2	1	4
8	9	4	7	2	1	5	3	6
2	3	9	4	1	8	6	5	7
6	4	1	2	7	5	3	9	8
7	5	8	9	3	6	1	4	2

ACROSS

- 1 Lower limb
- 4 Go over financial records
- 9 ___ jacket; book cover
- 13 Actor James ___ Jones
- 15 Fixed gaze
- 16 Peruvian Indian
- 17 Birch or beech
- 18 Mountain climber's spike
- 19 ___ and Eve
- 20 African nation
- 22 Sports arena's roof, often
- 23 ___ and aft
- 24 Retina's place
- 26 Suave; polished
- 29 Vigor; oomph
- 34 Come together
- 35 Parallel rails for trains
- 36 Female deer
- 37 Unhappy
- 38 Like granola bars
- 39 Crushing vipers
- 40 Dine
- 41 Straighten
- 42 Stops and won't proceed
- 43 Lawn planter's choice
- 45 Overly prim
- 46 Japan's dollar
- 47 Bedspring
- 48 Consumer
- 51 Gum flavor
- 56 Cougar
- 57 In the ___ of; surrounded by
- 58 Italian auto
- 60 Leave out
- 61 Heavenly messenger
- 62 Chimney duct
- 63 Short letter
- 64 Impoverished
- 65 Greek letter



4/9/11

Friday's Puzzle Solved

TEAMS	BRAD	CROP
RAVEL	YORE	HIFI
ASIDE	LIMA	ANTE
MEDIEVAL	LARGER	
AVOW	SERMONS	
GAINED	MERCY	
ABS	SKIER	SNACK
GALL	ANNUL	GLUE
STEAL	ADMIT	ARE
TEENS	VESSEL	
CAYENNE	HEMP	
AGENDA	SURPRISE	
NILE	CLAM	EIDER
ALLS	TIKI	STEER
LESS	SEED	TEARS

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4/9/11

- 39 Court officer
- 41 "You ___ what you eat"
- 42 Hat's edge
- 44 Twirl
- 45 Rather plump
- 47 Boxed up
- 48 "Once ___ a time..."
- 49 Japanese wrestling style
- 50 Give off
- 52 Evergreen tree
- 53 Border
- 54 Longest river
- 55 Tight, as a rope
- 59 Earl Grey's beverage

DOWN

- 1 Allow
- 2 All ___; listening
- 3 Expanded

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With Wynton Marsalis

Eric Clapton jams in jazz set



Photo courtesy of Julie Skarratt shows Jazz at Lincoln Center Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis, left, and musician Eric Clapton during Jazz at Lincoln Center's 2011 Annual Gala in New York.

By NEKESA MUMBI Associated Press

NEW YORK – Eric Clapton fulfilled his childhood fantasy as he took a turn on the jazz side, collaborating with Wynton Marsalis and the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra for a little bit of swing at the orchestra's annual gala benefit.

"I've never done anything like this in my life before," said Clapton during Thursday's concert, which saw the Rock and Hall of Famer use his guitar skills to play jazz classics like "Joe Turner's Blues," "Corrine, Corrina" and "Ice Cream."

An admittedly nervous Clapton revealed that his love of jazz music went back to his childhood.

"I wanted to be in a jazz band as a kid, but the guitar took me away," he told the audience.

But for one night, at least, he was the star of one, running through songs he'd selected and one that he didn't.

"Here's a song that I didn't really want to do," said Clapton. "I said the only way I'll do it is if Wynton would make it sound like it came out of New Orleans." □

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Studio wk 15 room 403 ocean view	\$6000
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Naomi, Wynonna Judd:

We were sexually sbused, too



Country singers The Judds

In her headline grabbing memoir, All That Is Bitter and Sweet, Ashley Judd talks about being sexually abused as a child by an older man. Now her famous mother and older sister a.k.a. the singing duo The Judds are admitting to similar experiences. On The View Thursday, Ashley's mom Naomi said that as a three-year-old, she was forced to fend off unwanted advances of an older male relative. "I rebuffed him, and it happened twice more," said the singer, 65. "I knocked him

away. I never said anything to anybody."

Naomi, who discusses the incident in her OWN Network series The Judds said she kept the story secret until two years ago, when in a therapy session, her psychologist asked about her first memory. "I told him, well, being sexually abused was my first memory, and he about fell off his seat," said Judd, who adds she "fell apart" after the discovery. "I realized I didn't trust my mother."

Noami's oldest daughter and singing partner, Wynonna, 46, said that she only heard her mother's story recently when they were touring. "I was a little resentful that the cameras were on," said Wynonna. "But we're willing to step out on faith and hope that it helps someone else to tell someone because there is a lot of shame and secrecy." Asked if she'd also been a victim of sexual abuse, Wynonna said she had been and talks about it in her own memoir Coming Home to Myself. "I haven't faced him yet," she said. "I'm a work in progress." Wynonna also put to rest rumors that Ashley's book has caused familial strife. "People are trying to pit us against each other," she said. "We agree to disagree in this family." □

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Beyond camping, canoeing, Boy Scouts add robotics



This photo released April 7, 2011 by the Boy Scouts of America shows a new Robotics merit badge, which depicts NASA's Mars rover. The badge will be unveiled next week as part of its efforts to emphasize science, technology, engineering and math.

Associated Press

By HOLLY RAMER
Associated Press

bot pitch a tent? If so, a Boy Scout who builds one might be able to earn two merit

CONCORD, N.H. – Can a ro-

be able to earn two merit

badges at once.

The Boy Scouts of America, which offers more than 120 badges ranging from archery to wilderness survival, next week will unveil a robotics merit badge meant to promote science, technology, engineering and math, fields collectively known as STEM. In doing so, the 101-year-old Texas-based organization is trying to remain relevant and better reflect boys' interests, said Matt Myers, who oversees the Boy Scouts' STEM initiative.

Badges have been dropped over the years — blacksmithing and beekeeping for example — and replaced with new versions more in line with skills boys need to succeed, he said.

“Last century, camping was an essential survival skill. Sometimes, you might have had to live outside in the 1900s to survive.

We view STEM as an essential survival skill in the 21st century,” he said Thursday. “We’re just trying to keep relevant with what kids need to learn.”

Officials expect at least 10,000 of the nation's 2.7 million Boy Scouts to earn the new badge in the next year, compared with the roughly 500,000 who earn the most popular badge

— first aid — each year.

Those earning the badge will be required to design and build a robot while learning about robot movement, sensors and programming.

The Boy Scouts have added four new badges in the last five years; the most recent was the Inventing badge introduced last June.

Developing the robotics badge requirements took 14 months and involved help from more than 150 scouts, their leaders and industry professionals. Ken Berry, who led the effort, said the badge is a bit overdue given that hundreds of thousands of children and teens already are participating in robotics competitions around the country.

“We’re promoting stretching of the mind like athletics promotes stretching of the body,” said Berry, assistant director of the Science and Engineering Education Center at the University of Texas at Dallas. The beauty of robotics is that it combines engineering, math and computer science in a fun format that even young Scouts can master, Berry said.

"There's a low floor and a high ceiling with regard to robotics," he said.

"It's very easy to get into, and you can go a long, long way." Berry, an Eagle Scout him-

self, said he would have loved the chance to earn a robotics badge as a teen.

Now 49, he remembers learning about radios and electronics as a Boy Scout, but there wasn't much opportunity for hands-on building.

“One of the biggest problems we have for high school kids and Boy Scouts included, is that there aren’t a lot of opportunities to tinker and experience what it’s like to be an engineer, so when they get to the college level, students are often ill prepared to do an engineering degree,” he said.

NASA, which allowed its Mars rover to be depicted on the badge, also agreed to take 100 patches into space on the Endeavour shuttle mission. Those badges will be distributed through an online contest.

"I think it would be cool," said Kyle Vachon, 11, of Auburn, N.H., who has earned badges in first aid and carpentry and is working on a badge in personal management.

Ten-year-old Josh Cerniglia of Atkinson, N.H., was also enthusiastic, since he has attended a robotics summer camp and enjoyed working on a build-your-own circuit kit.

"It's a bit strange because most of (the badges) have to do with camping, and robotics doesn't have to do a lot with camping," he said. "But I think as soon as I'm finished with fishing, I'll try to go for it."

The new badge will be formally announced Tuesday and unveiled Saturday in Boston during one of more than 75 events being held around the country to mark National Robotics Week.

The Boston event is sponsored by iRobot Corp., one of the companies that helped develop the badge requirements. □



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Venezuela: confirman solicitud de extradición de supuesto etarra

VENEZUELA (AP) - La Justicia venezolana confirmó el viernes que recibió formalmente la solicitud de extradición del vasco Arturo Cubillas acusado formalmente en España de organizar la colaboración entre el grupo armado ETA y las FARC de Colombia. Cubillas en marzo fue acusado, entre otros cargos, de ayudar en la concertación con rebeldes de la Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia, FARC, y el adiestramiento en explosivos de dos miembros del grupo ETA en territorio venezolano.

“La documentación contenitiva de la solicitud de extradición de Cubillas Fontán fue hecha a Venezuela por el Ministerio del Interior del Reino de España; y consignada ante este Máximo Tribunal en fecha 7 de abril”, anunció el Tribunal Supremo de Justicia (TSJ) en un comunicado

“Corresponderá ahora a la Sala de Casación Penal del TSJ el estudio y análisis de su contenido, de conformidad con lo establecido en la Constitución... los tratados en materia de extradición existentes entre ambas naciones y la jurisprudencia en la materia”, agregó el escrito.

El año pasado, dos etarras detenidos en el País Vasco confesaron haber participado en un curso sobre manejo de explosivos en Venezuela organizado por Cubillas en 2008, según autos judiciales.

El acusado -- que tiene nacionalidad venezolana, está casado con una venezolana y tuvo hijos en el país -- ha rechazado repetidamente su relación con el adiestramiento de etarras y admitió que trabaja como funcionario del Estado venezolano, sin especificar cargo.

El presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez ha dicho que los señalamientos sobre los supuestos miembros de la ETA que estarían cooperando con las FARC en Venezuela están basados en “especulaciones y manipulaciones”.

Cubillas es parte de unos 30 vascos que llegaron a Venezuela en calidad de refugiados entre 1984 y 1993. Mediante acuerdos entre los gobiernos de Venezuela y España, incluso los que no adoptaron la nacionalidad venezolana seguirían disfrutando de ese beneficio hasta que se le demostrasen cargos criminales.

ETA ha causado la muerte de 825 personas desde finales de la década de 1960 en su campaña por un estado independiente.

La organización anunció en enero un alto el fuego permanente pero el gobierno insiste en que se disuelva y deponga las armas. □

EEUU cuestiona sistema judicial venezolano

ESTADOS UNIDOS (AP) - La politización de la justicia, la corrupción, la impunidad en las fuerzas policiales, y el hostigamiento contra las ONG, los opositores y los medios, dominaron durante el año pasado la situación de los derechos humanos en Venezuela, afirmó el Departamento de Estado en un informe que difundió el viernes.

La existencia de casos de asesinatos extrajudiciales, detenciones arbitrarias, violaciones al debido proceso, así como la persecución selectiva con fines políticos, generaron inquietud en el gobierno estadounidense.

El estudio, que está basado en reportes de las organizaciones no humanitarias locales y de los medios, reconoce que el gobierno venezolano o sus agentes “no cometieron ninguna muerte con motivación política” en 2009, pero sí señala que las fuerzas de seguridad fueron acusadas de ejecutar “muertes extrajudiciales, incluyendo ejecuciones sumarias de sospechosos”.

Como prueba de ello citaron las cifras recabadas entre octubre 2009-septiembre 2010 por el Programa Venezolano de Educación y Acción en Derechos Humanos (Provea), que revelaron que en el país ocurrieron 237 asesinatos por la acción de las fuerzas de seguridad, de los cuales 199 fueron por ejecuciones extrajudiciales, nueve por exceso del uso de la fuerza, y 10 por tortura o trato cruel.

El Departamento de Estado afirmó, en su informe 2010 sobre prácticas de las naciones en materia de derechos humanos, que en el país suramericano persiste el problema de “politización del sistema judicial”, el cual aseguró que está caracterizado por “retrasos en los juicios” y las “violaciones al debido proceso”.

Asimismo, en el estudio se reconoce que la “independencia judicial se mantuvo comprometida” de acuerdo a las evaluaciones realizadas por observadores, y las denuncias de “corrupción” e “influencia política” que surgieron contra la Fiscalía General.

En relación al tema de la corrupción, el informe admite que esa situación se presenta en “todos los niveles del gobierno”, y que a pesar de existir una legislación que combate ese flagelo algunos observadores estiman que el gobierno no aplica de manera “efectiva” y “justa” la ley. □

Perú se alista para elecciones presidenciales



La candidata presidencial Keiko Fujimori, hija del ex presidente Alberto Fujimori, durante una actividad política en Lima, Perú, el 7 de abril, 2011. (AP Photo/Karel Navarro)

LIMA - Los cuatro candidatos con más opciones para disputar la presidencia dirigen sus últimos mensajes políticos antes de los comicios del domingo, para convencer a un 11% de indecisos y a un amplio sector de electores que aún podrían cambiar su voto. El ex militar izquierdista Ollanta Humala, el favorito para ganar la elección --aunque no

trunfaría en primera vuelta-- insistió el viernes en que realizará cambios en el país pero sin afectar la estabilidad económica y democrática que se logró consolidar en los últimos 10 años.

Según los expertos en encuestas, a escasos días de los comicios presidenciales existe un 11% de indecisos, y un 25%

de electores que habiendo decidido ya su voto, aún podrían cambiar de opinión.

Keiko Fujimori, la hija del ex presidente Alberto Fujimori, que marcha en segundo lugar en las preferencias, prometió que en un eventual gobierno suyo trabajará “por los más pobres” pero de manera responsable generando riqueza y no pobreza. □

FMI: Colombia busca acuerdo por 6.000 millones dólares

COLOMBIA (AP) - El Fondo Monetario Internacional (FMI) anunció el viernes el interés de Colombia en solicitar un nuevo acuerdo precautorio de dos años por 6.100 millones de dólares, en el marco de la Línea de Crédito Flexible (LCF).

John Lipsky, primer subdirector gerente del FMI, dijo en un comunicado de prensa que tal acuerdo proporcionaría a Colombia una “protección eficaz contra el riesgo de eventos externos extremos” y permitiría al mismo tiempo “mantener un acceso ininterrumpido a los mercados de capital en condiciones favorables”.

Lipsky describió como “positivas” las perspectivas generales para Colombia en el 2011, con una expectativa de crecimiento del 4,6%, pero advirtió que persisten “riesgos significativos” y que un shock en el crecimiento de la economía mundial afectaría las exportaciones, el crecimiento y las necesidades de financiamiento de Colombia. □



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